

October 29, 1996



Brazil writer goes home after heart surgery

BRASILIA (R) — Brazil's youngest living writer, Jorge Amado, left a hospital in the northeastern city of Salvador Sunday, 10 days after undergoing heart surgery, local television said. Mr. Amado, 84, said he was feeling well after an operation to clear a blocked artery but did not know when he would resume writing. His latest book, *Globo*, was reported. Mr. Amado, who has written some 32 books over 65 years, suffered a heart attack three years ago and was taken to hospitals at least three times this year in Salvador and in Paris. His second wife, Amadeia, is a household name in Brazil and has made him a mark abroad. His novel, *Playboy*, on the tropical sexuality, violence and feudal politics of his impoverished home state of Bahia, has been translated into nearly 50 languages and has sold more than 20 million copies worldwide. Several, such as *Dom Flor and Her Two Husbands* and *Gabriel*, have been turned into films in soap operas.

China finds fossilised forest under Gobi Desert

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese geologists have found a 13-million-year-old fossilised forest under the Gobi Desert, North China's Xinjiang region. The fossilisation of a 13-million-year-old forest, comprising ginkgo, pine, and other trees, was discovered after heavy sand on the Gobi Desert was blown away by a strong wind. The discovery is the largest piece of fossilised forest found in the world.

Beijing sets Rat-Killing Day

BEIJING (R) — China's capital, which launched a drive to drive out the rat, has set a day for killing rats. The drive is part of a campaign to improve the city's hygiene and health. The city's health department has set a day for killing rats, and the campaign is being carried out in all parts of the city. The drive is part of a campaign to improve the city's hygiene and health. The city's health department has set a day for killing rats, and the campaign is being carried out in all parts of the city.

Bogota launches war on bullfighting

BOGOTA (R) — A city council in Colombia has declared war on bullfighting. The council has passed a resolution to ban bullfighting in the city. The resolution is part of a campaign to improve the city's image and to protect the health and safety of its citizens. The council has passed a resolution to ban bullfighting in the city. The resolution is part of a campaign to improve the city's image and to protect the health and safety of its citizens.

U.N. inspectors travel to north Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — Three international oil experts left Baghdad for northern Iraq on Tuesday to inspect the country's oil facilities for possible implementation of a delayed oil-for-food deal with the United Nations. Wolde Ammar, spokesman for Iraq's U.N. coordinator, said the experts ended on Monday a three-day inspection of Iraq's southern Mina Al Bakr oil terminal, checking its metering equipment and facilities to see whether they can handle oil exports. The terminal, with a total export capacity of more than one million barrels per day (bpd), sustained heavy damage during the 1991 Gulf war. The Iraqis say they have repaired the facility. "They (experts) are a fact finding mission...they are travelling to the north today (Tuesday). They will go to Beiji oil complex and then they proceed to Zakho tracing the Iraqi-Turkish oil pipeline," Mr. Ammar told Reuters.

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Israeli businessmen seek improved ties with Egypt

TEL AVIV (R) — The president of Israel's largest holding company has asked Egyptian ambassador to the Jewish state to arrange a meeting of Israeli and Egyptian businessmen and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in two weeks. Benjamin Gaon, president and chief executive of Koor Industries, would like the meeting to be held during the upcoming Middle East economic conference in Cairo. Mr. Gaon's spokesman confirmed. At a meeting last week of Israeli business leaders in preparation for the Cairo conference, Mr. Gaon told participants that one of the main tasks of the conference would be to develop economic relations with Egypt. Mr. Gaon said that even though Israel had peace with Egypt for over a decade, the two countries have failed to achieve close economic ties despite initiatives from both sides. He said he believes the personal involvement of Egyptian leaders would encourage both Israeli and Egyptian businessmen to foster economic ties.

Ayatollah meets Vatican official

ROME (AFP) — Iranian Ayatollah Mohammad Emami Kachani, who is on an unofficial visit to Rome, met with Vatican Secretary of State Monsignor Angelo Sodano, diplomatic sources said Tuesday. The talks Monday between the two senior dignitaries were focused on ties between the Muslim and Christian communities and were "constructive," a spokesman for the Iranian embassy to the Vatican said. Ayatollah Emami Kachani, a senior Shiite religious dignitary, has been in Rome since Oct. 17 and was expected to return to Tehran later Tuesday, the spokesman said.

Israeli held in Tabat with LSD

CAIRO (AFP) — An Israeli has been arrested in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Tabat for possession of 660 tabs of LSD, the official Egyptian news agency MENA said Tuesday. Dahan Simon, 33, an employee of the Sonesta Hotel in Eilat, the neighbouring Israeli port, allegedly admitted planning to sell the hallucinogenic drug to tourists in the Sinai. MENA said. It did not give the date of his arrest. The head of the Egyptian anti-narcotics squad, General Mohammad Sharaawi, said the arrest "is part of our department's plan to track down people coming from outside the country, especially from Israel," to sell drugs in Egypt. The penalties for drug trafficking in Egypt range from life imprisonment with hard labour to death.

Mauritanian rewarded for bravery

SAINT-DIE, France (AFP) — An unemployed Mauritanian was rewarded for saving a drunken homeless man from drowning after other vagrants pushed him into the River Meurthe in eastern France. Sali Diam, 44, was awarded the bronze medal of the Carnegie Foundation at a ceremony here on Monday. Mr. Diam, who has been unemployed for several years, was also given a cheque for 2,000 francs (\$400). On June 19 of last year Mr. Diam saw three drunken homeless men arguing by the riverside. One of them, who was crippled, fell to the ground and one of his companions pushed him into the river. Mr. Diam immediately dived into the river to rescue the drowning man. "My wife and children will be so happy," said Mr. Diam, whose family lives in Mauritania.

King stresses importance to EU role in peace process as complementary to U.S. effort

HM returns home after Sharm Al Sheikh summit with President Mubarak on Israeli-Palestinian talks

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Tuesday emphasised the importance of a European role in the Middle East peace process and in efforts to revitalise Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. "I think Europe has an important role to play because it's close to our region and is interested in restarting the peace process," the King said at a joint news conference with Mr. Mubarak after three hours of talks at the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm Al Sheikh. "Europe is not seeking a role that would contradict that of the United States but one that would be complementary," he said. In Cairo, the Arab League welcomed the naming of a European Union (EU) special envoy to the Middle East for the first time.

Spanish Ambassador to Israel Miguel Moratinos was appointed on Monday.

Mr. Moratinos said on Tuesday he aimed to act as a political go-between, provide economic aid and calm a heated atmosphere rather than push a French bid for an EU seat at peace talks. "I believe one sits around the negotiating table only when one is invited to do so by all the parties," Mr. Moratinos told a Radio France International interview.

"I believe that the role of the union is not so much to sit at a table as to transmit political messages and show one's economic and financial availability," he added.

He was replying to a question whether he would relay France's position — that Europe should sit alongside the United States in peace talks — when he began his mission. In Sharm Al Sheikh, Mr. Mubarak said that "the

European efforts could bolster the Americans in restoring peace in the region."

"We are still proceeding with an exchange of views in the hope that Israel will respect what's already been concluded" with the Palestinians, so as to encourage the other parties concerned to "participate in peace talks" with the Jewish state, Mr. Mubarak said, referring to Syria and Lebanon. He said Israel's failure to implement its peace agreements with the Palestinians made the Arabs "lose confidence" in the peace process.

King Hussein, who returned home later Tuesday after the summit, said that the Arabs "were still waiting for the full implementation" of these accords by Israel because "a commitment to implement them isn't enough."

The King and Mr. Mubarak said they rejected any partitioning of Iraq or any foreign intervention in

Iraqi affairs. They stressed the need to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people.

During their meeting, the two leaders had a phone call with United Arab Emirates President Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan and were assured on his good health. They reviewed with Sheikh Zayed views on issues of common concern.

The King told reporters that the Washington summit was neither a failure nor a success, but "the parties to the summit agreed to a full implementation of all agreements between the Palestinians and Israelis."

In reply to a question on Jordanian participation in the Middle East and North Africa economic conference in Cairo, the King said that the summit would be held as scheduled, and that all Jordanian parties concerned would take active part.

(Continued on page 7)

Negotiators at work despite absence of Arafat and Ross

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli and Palestinian negotiators tried to get talks on Israel's troop pullout from Hebron back on track Tuesday, despite the absence of Yasser Arafat and President Bill Clinton's special envoy.

Officials from the two sides met Tuesday afternoon in Tel Aviv to discuss security issues holding up the withdrawal.

In Hebron, Jewish settlers shouting "his is our home" pushed and shoved two Arafat aides as they toured the city centre Tuesday. Israeli police escorted the two Palestinians away from the area.

Three weeks of U.S.-brokered talks on Hebron, the last West Bank city under Israeli control, broke down

Clashes erupt after funeral of 10-year-old slain by settler

HUSAN (Agencies) — Israeli troops used rubber bullets and tear-gas to disperse protests which erupted after the funeral Tuesday of a 10-year-old Palestinian boy who witnesses said was beaten to death by a Jewish settler.

One person was reported wounded by a rubber bullet after the clashes erupted when about 100 people blocked roads and began stoning soldiers after the funeral for Hilmi Shusha.

Scores of Israeli troops deployed to break up the protests and imposed a curfew on this town of 5,000 located west of Bethlehem. No arrests were reported. Shusha died Sunday from head injuries after being kicked in the head and beaten by the chief of security from a small nearby Jewish settlement, Hadar Beit.

The suspect, Nahum Kurman, was detained Sunday but denied during a remand hearing Tuesday that he had struck the child in the head.

Kurman initially told police he went to Husan after Israeli cars were stoned by youths nearby and that Shusha fell and hit his head on a stone when he tried to

(Continued on page 7)

Israel flexes muscles on Golan, plays down Syrian movements

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel staged a military exercise with tanks and infantry troops in the Golan Heights on Tuesday as Israeli government officials played down reports of new Syrian troop movements.

The Israeli daily Haaretz reported Tuesday that in recent weeks, U.S. spy satellites have detected unusual movements of Syrian units that operate surface-to-surface Scud missiles. The daily said the report was carried by the Lebanese newspaper Al Massira, and was later confirmed independently by other sources.

Israel's minister of public security, Avigdor Kahalani, said Tuesday he doubted Syria would make any moves that could be interpreted as threatening

Israelis, and that it was more likely Syria hoped to extract political concessions from Israel.

"I assume that Syria will not start attacking civilian populations because they don't want us to do it to them," Mr. Kahalani said on Israel Radio.

However, he added that Israel was prepared for any event. "If we have to respond, we will respond," Mr. Kahalani said.

In the Golan, the strategic plateau Israel seized from Syria in the 1967 war, Israeli tanks and infantry troops staged a military exercise Tuesday.

Soldiers wearing rain gear and camouflage helmets ran through mud and fog alongside tanks in a rain-soaked field. Some carried sniper rifles and mortar

launchers. "The brigade is ready for all kinds of missions," said an Israeli commander, Major General Uzi Dayan. "I am not looking for war and I am not foreseeing any war. We are just training here in order to be ready for any mission."

Gen. Dayan said the drill was planned a year ago, and that it was coincidence the exercise was being held at a time of such tension with Syria.

Israeli officials said this week they were preparing for the possibility that Syria could launch a limited war with Israel in order to pressure for more conciliatory Israeli positions in deadlocked peace talks.

Syria accused Israel of

(Continued on page 7)

Assad, Primakov discuss peace process

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov discussed the stalled Middle East peace process with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad here Tuesday, a Syrian spokesman said.

They also discussed the current situation in the region generally, spokesman Jibril Kourieh said, adding that Mr. Primakov said he was "satisfied" with his talks Monday with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa.

The two foreign ministers discussed "the future of the peace process in light of Israeli positions hostile to a just and comprehensive peace based on the principle of trading land-for-peace," a Syrian official said.

After the meeting with Mr. Assad, Mr. Primakov left Damascus for Beirut, the second stop on his week-long tour of the region as part of efforts to restore Moscow's role in the Middle East peace process. He will then travel to Israel, the Palestinian territories, Egypt and Jordan.

Mr. Primakov, who arrived in Damascus Monday, has said Russia "as a co-sponsor of the peace process" wants to play "a more dynamic role in efforts aimed at pushing forward" peace talks.

Syrian official newspaper, Tishrin, praised Russia's role in the Middle East as "constructive" and stressed "the importance that Syria accords to an active" Russian role.

Although Moscow officially remains a co-sponsor of the peace process launched in Madrid, its influence in the Middle East has largely evaporated since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

KDP can 'prove' Iran's support for PUK

ANKARA (R) — An Iraqi Kurdish militia on Tuesday again accused a rival group of receiving military support from Iran, on the eve of U.S.-brokered peace talks to end Kurdish fighting in northern Iraq. The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) said in a statement that it had evidence of Iranian forces fighting alongside the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK). The statement carried photocopies of what Masoud Barzani's KDP said were identity cards taken from the bodies of two Iranian soldiers killed in a clash near the strategic Dukan Dam on Oct. 20. The PUK was not immediately available for comment but both it and Tehran have denied previous KDP charges of military cooperation. Delegations from the two Kurdish groups are to meet in Ankara for peace negotiations on Wednesday, diplomats said. U.S. envoy Robert Pelletreau is to chair the talks at which Britain and Turkey will take part as observers.



His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Sharm Al Sheikh on Tuesday (Petra photo)

Crown Prince moots idea of one political umbrella for small, medium-sized moderate states

Havel hails Prince Hassan's visit to Prague as 'historically significant'

Special from Prague

HRH CROWN Prince Hassan's ongoing visit to Prague and his talks with Czech leaders were hailed as "historically significant" by President Vaclav Havel yesterday, "since the Crown Prince is the first Jordanian leader to make a trip here and this visit will open the door" for exchange at the heads-of-state level next year.

At the end of their first round of talks, held at the presidential palace, President Havel said the Czech Republic highly appreciated the policies of Jordan "as a stable country in a volatile region of the world."

"I repeated to the Crown Prince a cordial invitation (Continued on page 7)

Czech leader to visit Jordan in April; Czechs want boosted economic ties

CZECH PRESIDENT Havel is expected to pay an official visit to Jordan next April. No fixed date has been set, but the visit will be part of a tour in the region, which will take him to Israel and the Palestinian territories. The president has visited only two Arab countries since he took office in 1989 — Egypt in 1992 and Kuwait (for a few hours) in 1994.

He, however, visited Israel earlier, in 1990. Before Crown Prince Hassan arrived here on Monday, only two Arab leaders visited Prague since the communist rule was toppled in 1989. They are Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. The Jordan Times has also learned that a Czech business delegation will arrive in Amman in December to explore avenues for joint investment.

President Havel told the Crown Prince Tuesday that there were qualified national companies which were willing to work in Jordan and the Middle East. The prime minister, and Minister of Trade and Industry (Continued on page 7)

5 Bahrainis killed, 25 injured in accident on Azraq-Amman road

AMMAN (J.T.) — Five Bahrainis were killed and 25 others injured in a road crash on the way back from a Shiite Muslim pilgrimage to Syria when their bus was hit by a speeding refrigerator truck Tuesday, the Civil Defence Department (CDD) said.

The noon smash-up occurred on the main Azraq-Amman road near Shweir army camp.

The Kuwait-registered refrigerated truck rammed the Bahraini-licensed bus as it tried to overtake, a CDD report said. Both drivers escaped unhurt, but the truck driver, identified as Fahd Ben Jiris, whose nationality was not given, fled the scene after the accident.

The CDD report said the injured were rushed to the Zarqa Government Hospital and the Prince Hashem Military Hospital.

The report said that among the injured was a child and all the bus passengers injured in the accident were of Bahraini nationality except for a woman who has Syrian nationality.

Civil defence personnel on the scene of the accident told Jordan Television that the refrigerator truck ploughed into the rear of the bus when its driver was trying to overtake the bus, which was also speeding at 100 kilometres per hour (kph). The speed limit on the road is 80 kph, the officers said.

Bahrain's Charge d'Affaires in Amman Abdullah Al Ansari and Zarqa Governor Eid Qatameh visited the injured in hospital and wished them speedy recovery.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Ansari expressed his government's appreciation to the Jordanian government for the speedy services and the medical treatment accorded to the injured.

Later on Monday, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Khabiri, upon directives from His Majesty King Hussein, visited the injured in hospital to wish them speedy recovery. Mr. Khabiri was accompanied by police chief Nasouh Muheiddin.

Arab Bank Manages a Dual Currency Syndicated Loan for Jordan Mobile Telephone Service Co. Ltd.

A DUAL currency syndicated loan agreement in the amount of JD(10) million and S(\$4.25) million for Jordan Mobile Telephona Service Co. Ltd. was signed at Arab Bank head office/Smaisan.

Present in the signing ceremony were the representatives of the participating banks, and the borrower.

The loan will be utilised by the borrower to finance the investment cost of completing the Mobile Telephone network to cover all areas of Jordan by the end of 1998 with a total cost estimated at \$85 million. This loan will be parallel in its security with another loan the company has obtained from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in the amount of \$15 million. It represents, with its innovative structure, an important addition to the Jordanian Capital Market which recently witnessed some important developments.

This loan will help fulfil one of the significant infrastructure projects of the communications sector which Jordan endeavours to develop with the active participation of the private sector, as the borrower is fully owned by the private sector with the participation of an international strategic partner (i.e. Motorola Inc).

The loan which is managed by Arab Bank includes the following participating banks in addition to Arab Bank, the Housing Bank, Citibank N.A./Amman, Union Bank for Savings and Investment, ANZ Grindlays, British Bank of the Middle East, Social Security Corporation, Jordan Investment and Finance Bank, AEC Jordan and Export and Finance Bank.

Qatar emir names brother as premier

DOHA (R) — Qatar's emir on Tuesday named his younger brother as prime minister and asked him to form a new government.

Officials and diplomats expect the new cabinet to introduce changes to the running of the energy industry in the oil and gas-rich state.

"His Royal Highness Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani today issued a decree appointing Sheikh Abdullah Ben Khalifa Al Thani as prime minister and asked him to form his new cabinet," a senior palace official told Reuters.

Western-educated Sheikh Abdullah, the current deputy prime minister and interior minister is expected to announce the cabinet within a few days, he added.

The official Qatar News Agency (QNA) carried the text of the decree, which said the appointment takes effect immediately.

The emir had held the post of prime minister since he ousted his father, Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani, in June, 1995. Sheikh Abdullah played a role in the coup.

The emir last week named his third son, Sheikh Jassim Ben Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani, 18, as crown prince.

Officials and diplomats said the reshuffle was expected to introduce changes, including abolishing the oil ministry and setting up a supreme energy council to be headed by the emir.

The emir last week, in a step towards restructuring the government by separating royal powers from those of the cabinet, issued a decree redefining his powers and jurisdiction as executive head of state. He also redefined the role of prime minister and cabinet as senior executive organs of government.

Under a provisional constitution in force since 1971, the emir acted as his own prime minister. Ministers were appointed and fired at his sole discretion.

Last week's decree separated the prime minister's office and the royal court or emiri diwan. Ministers will be appointed at the recommendation of the prime minister. It rules that the cabinet will be collectively responsible to the emir for implementing the general policy of the state.

Officials and diplomats said the changes are prompted by the need to give adequate representation to different sections of the ruling Al Thani family, which constitutes the largest sin-

gle chunk of the native population of around 120,000.

Qatar is a small oil exporter whose native population is among the world's richest with gross national product of \$22,000 each. Some 440,000 foreigners, mostly from the Indian subcontinent and Iran, work in Qatar.

Qatar's oil reserves are overshadowed by its natural gas deposits which are exceeded only by those of Russia and Iran.

London welcomes reconciliation

Britain welcomed the recent reconciliation between Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani and his father, whom he had deposed in a bloodless coup last year. Britain's defence secretary said.

"Britain welcomes the understanding between his highness the emir and his father, the former emir," Michael Portillo told reporters at the end of a two-day visit to Qatar.

The Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani, is expected to return home soon following the reconciliation, which ended a bitter stand-off within the ruling family. The present emir's government has accused Sheikh Khalifa, who currently lives in self-imposed exile in London, of misappropriating billions of dollars in missing funds from the treasury during his rule.

The government has now said that it will drop all legal claims filed in eight courts worldwide against the former emir in return for an assurance to settle the accounts.

Britain offers security proposal

Mr. Portillo also said Monday he had offered a comprehensive Gulf security proposal to Qatar.

"We offered a security proposal to Qatar because it is clear that Qatar is trying to play a full part in the security of this region," Mr. Portillo said. He did not disclose any details of the proposal or how it would function.

"Britain remains very much interested in security and defence matters in the Gulf and Qatar is expected to play an important role," he told reporters.

Diplomats said Mr. Portillo's offer was part of a British bid to find a fresh foothold in lower Gulf states from where it voluntarily withdrew in 1970.



CAPTIVE TALEBAN: An injured Taleban fighter stands with others at a prisoner-of-war camp set up by ousted Afghan government military commander Ahmad Shah Masood in Borak village in the Panjsher Valley (Reuters photo)

EU envoy hopes to see Mideast peace by 2000

MADRID (R) — The European Union's new Middle East envoy said on Monday he hopes to help the region begin the 21st century in peace.

Miguel Angel Moratinos, in an interview with Spain's Radio five, said he had received word of his appointment but did not yet know the terms of reference.

"I will try with the help of all European countries... to see to it that this region can live in peace and prosperity at the beginning of the 21st century," Mr. Moratinos said.

Foreign ministers of the 15-member European Union, appointed Mr. Moratinos, Spain's ambassador to Israel, to represent them in the Middle East peace process.

"I imagine my mandate will be to try to contribute as one European voice to bringing the positions of the parties closer together and to try to contribute to the negotiations staying on course and concluding happily," he said.

Despite violence last month and a stalemate in talks, Mr. Moratinos said the Middle East had seen harder times.

"It's not easy but I think there were much more difficult and complicated moments in the Middle

East. We have to keep this in historical perspective."

"It is not a cause for pessimism. It is a moment of pause and of hope," Mr. Moratinos added.

The ambassador recalled the "cold autumn" five years ago when Israel, Syria, Jordan and Palestinians first sat down at a landmark conference in Madrid.

"It's not as cloudy as when the conference in Madrid started. Looking back, it is impressive what has been achieved."

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is due to visit Spain in two days to commemorate five years since the October 31 Madrid conference.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, also invited to come "on or around" the anniversary, has not said whether he will come.

Asked if hardliner Mr. Netanyahu's election had set back the peace process, Mr. Moratinos replied that Israel had made a democratic choice to change the pace of the process under the slogan "peace with security."

"All of us want this peace to advance precisely in order to reinforce the security of all the parties and all the countries involved in the peace process," he said.

Threats postpone U.S. ceremony in Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — The U.S. embassy on Monday postponed the dedication of a monument to Americans killed in the Gulf war because of reported threats to American interests in Kuwait.

The postponement followed a travel advisory issued Sunday from Washington by the U.S. State Department, urging U.S. citizens in Kuwait to "exercise particular caution" over the next several days due to "reports of threats to American interests" in the emirate.

The monument, listing the names of the 386 U.S. Gulf war dead, was commissioned by the American women's league, a club for U.S. citizens in Kuwait.

No alternative date was given for its dedication.

Apparently, the casualty figure chosen for the monument included both combat and non-combat deaths among U.S. Soldiers during Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

The Florida-based U.S. Central Command lists 146 Americans killed in action and 227 non-battle U.S. fatalities during the conflict, a total of 373 dead.

It was not immediately

clear why the figure on the monument was different, and league members were not available to explain the discrepancy.

There are about 5,000 U.S. military personnel and 8,000 American civilians in oil-rich Kuwait.

Neither the U.S. embassy spokeswoman nor the State Department spokeswoman would comment on the nature of the threats or how they were reported.

The embassy spokeswoman, who refused to be identified, said the mission and "installations where there are large numbers of American military" have taken "extra security precautions." He did not elaborate.

The travel advisory cautioned U.S. citizens in Kuwait to vary their routes and schedules, be alert to surveillance and "unusual and overly inquisitive persons or callers."

It also had urged Americans to beware of unexpected visitors or packages, and take time to inspect vehicles for signs of tampering.

"Park in secure, well-lit areas," the advisory said. "avoid actions that might draw attention to yourself."

Washington optimistic about Hebron negotiations

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher remains confident that the Israeli-Palestinian talks on Hebron will succeed, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said on Monday.

Mr. Burns said the United States has obtained from the Israelis and the Palestinians "a renewed commitment" to stay at the bargaining table until they succeed.

The two parties have made "significant progress" since last week, he said. "In fact, they've made progress on most of the major issues but not all."

Mr. Burns said the negotiations would continue "at a lower level" as long as Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is visiting Europe.

"It may take a week, or two, or three, or four more to get to the next step, which is complete agreement," he said.

He ruled out any possibility that the outcome of next week's presidential election

will change U.S. policy in the Middle East.

"The American policy is not going to change on November 6th from November 5th or November 4th," he said. "We don't want to encourage anyone to think that."

He said he was not aware of Israeli reports that the Palestinians had raised last-minute objections to agreements reached with Israel concerning the redeployment of the Israeli army in Hebron.

Asked about the European Union's (EU's) decision to appoint a special Middle East envoy to monitor the peace process, he repeated that the United States is the only intermediary accepted by both sides, and that it would continue to be the indispensable country.

Finally, concerning Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov's trip to the Middle East, Mr. Burns said the United States was not opposed to a visit by a

representative of a country that is a partner in the peace process.

Mr. Primakov arrived Monday in Syria at the start of the trip which is aimed at reviving the peace process — and Russia's own role in it.

Mr. Primakov, who has extensive experience of the Arab World, was to travel on from Damascus to Lebanon, Egypt, Israel, the autonomous Palestinian territories and Jordan.

Dismissing suggestions that the Israeli-Palestinian talks had collapsed, Mr. Burns said U.S. Envoy Dennis Ross, who was returning to Washington on Monday, was likely to go back to the Middle East in some days to resume mediation.

Some Israeli officials suggested Mr. Arafat was stalling the talks by embarking on Monday on a European tour. Israel's ambassador to Washington said Mr. Arafat had rejected a plea by Mr. Ross to call off the trip.

Mr. Burns would not confirm that Mr. Ross had made such a request.

But he said: "I think it's wrong, and I think it's also just not consistent with the facts to point at Chairman Arafat and say: 'he's the guy holding these talks up' or 'had he stayed these talks would have succeeded today or tomorrow'."

"I would just look at both of them (Israelis and Palestinians) and say they're both responsible, and they're only going to get an agreement when both of them cross the line together," he said.

"At some point, I would think shortly, Dennis will be going back to the region," he added. "We believe — collectively and individually — that this agreement's going to be made, and we're not panicking."

The U.S. spokesman's assessment differed sharply from that offered earlier by Israeli ambassador Eliahu Ben Elissar, who said Israel

had expected to wrap up the deal early on Monday only to find that the Palestinians had "reopened" several issues.

Mr. Burns said he was not aware that either side had sought to reopen agreed issues in the last 24 hours. "I don't think anyone's 'bargaining their position,'" he said, adding that he believed agreement was "very close."

Mr. Burns agreed with Mr. Ben Elissar on one point, that there would be little point in the Palestinians waiting until after the U.S. Presidential elections — as some Israeli officials say they are — in hope of winning a better deal.

"We don't want to encourage anyone to think that the day following an election, should President Clinton be victorious, American foreign policy is going to fundamentally change," Mr. Burns reaffirmed.

RPG fired in Kuwaiti celebration

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti men celebrated a regional soccer victory into the early hours of Tuesday with some fans reported to have fired bullets and a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) in the air, Al Rai Al Aam daily said.

One fan fired a shoulder-held RPG while others sprayed the sky with bullets from assault rifles to celebrate Kuwait's 2-1 win over Qatar on Monday night in the Gulf Arab states' annual soccer championship.

It did not say if anyone was injured or arrested in those incidents. But several traffic accidents were seen on main roads as thousands of Kuwaitis took to the streets waiting the national flag and dancing on top of their vehicles.

Despite a programme to collect weapons and ammunition after the 1991 Gulf war, some Kuwaitis still have supplies left by retreating Iraqi troops.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:05Muppet Show
14:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
15:00Pyramid
15:30Serie — Les Compagnons de L'Adventure
16:00 Doc. — Earth Revealed
16:30Blizzard Island
17:00News Flash
17:02The Adventures
17:30Kelly
18:00Ushuaia
19:00Le Journal
19:15Magazine — Sports
19:30News Headlines
19:35The Four Seasons
20:00Super Stars of Action
20:30Challenges
21:10NBA
22:00News in English
22:25Drama — Bugs
23:15Hart to Hart
23:59Comedy — Who is the Boss?

PRAYER TIMES

04:28Fajr
05:46(Sunrise) Duha
11:29Dhuhr
14:25Asr
16:53Maghreb
18:11Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth, Church Sweifeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church, Tel. 624590

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Church of the Annunciation

Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church

Tel. 661757.

Terra Sancta Church

Tel. 622366

Anglican Church

Tel. 652826.

Armenian Catholic Church

Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church

Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church

Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church

Tel. 827126

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation

Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel.

654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel.

675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman

Tel. 811295

English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel.

614190.

Aqaba

.....15/27

Deserts

.....9/20

Jordan Valley

.....14/25

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 15, Aqaba 26 Humidity readings: Amman 85 per cent, Aqaba 53 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Issam Asmar

.....890504

Dr. Nidal As'ad

.....751672

Dr. Khalidoun Kloub

.....716715

Dr. Osama Al Hussein

.....847289

Firas pharmacy

.....661912

Ferdows pharmacy

.....390280

Al Asema pharmacy

.....637055

Al Salam pharmacy

.....636730

Yacoub pharmacy

.....644945

Shmeisani pharmacy

.....637660

Nairokh pharmacy

.....623672

199

Rescue Police 192, 621111.

637777

Fire Brigade

.....617101

Blood Bank

.....775121

Highway Police

.....843402

Traffic Police

.....896390

Public Security Department

630321

Hotel Complaints

.....605800

Price Complaints

.....661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints

.....897467

Amman Municipality Complaints

.....787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance)

.....121

Overseas Calls

.....010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs

.....623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs

661101

Jordan Television

.....773111

Radio Jordan

.....774111

Jabal Amman Maternity

642362

Malhas, J. Amman

.....636140

Palestine, Shmeisani

607071

Shmeisani Hospital

669131

University Hospital

845845

Al-Muasher Hospital

6672279

The Islamic, Abdali

666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali

664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen

777101/3

Al-Bashir

.....775111/26

Army, Marka

.....891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital

602240/50

Amal Hospital

.....674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery

.....865199

ZARQA:

ZARQA Govt. Hospital

Queen Noor distributes awards for children's literature

AMMAN (J.T.) — Seven outstanding writers from Jordan and Syria Tuesday received the Queen Noor Annual Award for Children's Literature, presented by Her Majesty Queen Noor at the Royal Cultural Centre, according to a Royal Court statement.

The Queen inaugurated the Children's Literary and Arts Exhibition saying that the limited range of children's books and traditional educational systems are not stimulating the full potential of children's inquisitive minds, quick perception

and creative energies, adding that she touted an auxiliary method of reading to children daily outside of school.

Secretary General of the Ministry of Culture Dr. Qassem Abu Ayn stated that the award's main aim is to enrich and diversify the Arab child's library, whose lessons, once absorbed by the child, will never be forgotten.

Established in 1988 by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), this annual award encourages the production of quality Arab

children's literature, including short stories, novels, poetry, plays, folk-tales and scientific works.

According to the statement, this year over one hundred entries from Egypt, Syria, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Morocco and Jordan were judged by a panel of distinguished Arab writers.

Winning works will be published by the NHF, the statement said.

Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and his wife Fatima attended the awards ceremony.



CHARITY BAZAAR OPENS: HRH Princess Basma Ali inspects an artificial flower display at the opening of Humanitarian Aid Club bazaar (Petra photo)

Princess Basma Ali opens Humanitarian Aid Club bazaar

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for Her Majesty Queen Noor, HRH Princess Basma Bint Ali Tuesday opened a charity bazaar organised at Al Hussein Youth City.

Princess Basma inspected the various items on display which included embroideries, national costumes, silverware, scents, artificial flowers, food and home appliances.

The items also included Dead Sea products, ceramics, furniture, oriental ornaments, agricultural products, educational aids and

children's toys.

The bazaar, organised by the Humanitarian Aid Club, is an annual event held usually to raise donations for the needy and to help underprivileged students with their tuition fees to colleges and universities, according to the club's president, Dalal Etoum.

Mrs. Etoum said that this year's proceeds will go to benefit projects carried out by Noor Al Hussein Foundation.

She added that several charitable organisations assisted in providing items

for sale at the bazaar.

She said that this year the club granted four scholarships to needy students to study at Jordanian universities and provided help to handicapped and orphaned children, as well as senior citizens and widows.

Present at the opening ceremony was Minister of Social Development Hamad Abu Jamous and Mrs. Inaam Mufti, Queen Noor's advisor of social development, as well as the spouses of several diplomats posted to Jordan.

Greek delegation visits Investment Promotion Corporation

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting delegation from the Athens Chambers of Industry and Commerce Tuesday called on Director General of the Investment Promotion Corporation Taleh Rifai.

The Athens group is in Amman to discuss economic cooperation with the Kingdom and trade business related exchanges.

Discussions covered investment-related issues, descriptions of each country's private sector and investor incentives.

Dr. Rifai addressed the delegation — comprised of major company representatives in fields as diverse as compilation of printing equipment, processing food and vendors of furni-

ture, medicines, plastics and construction materials — outlining the development of the investment corporation as well as its objectives.

He stated that the government had introduced a package of measures intended to encourage foreign investment.

Dimitris Kofsoliovitlis led the 15-member delegation which stated its intention to conclude a protocol on economic and trade links with the heads of the Amman Chambers of Commerce and Industry during their visit.

Head of the Jordan Exports Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) Mohammad Halaiqah sub-

sequently called on the visiting Greek delegation to discuss bilateral economic cooperation.

The head of the Greek delegation expressed interest in promoting trade exchanges with Jordan and welcomed visit exchanges by business people from the two countries.

Dr. Halaiqah maintained that Jordan strives to serve as a regional centre for investments and for the transit of goods to neighbouring countries.

Among Jordan's exports to Greece are phosphate, potash, garments, textile products while the Kingdom imports paper, timber and electric appliances from Greece.

Jordan and Israel plan Amman-Haifa air route, pledge to discuss transport issues

AMMAN (R) — Jordan and Israel plan to increase flights between their capitals and add a Haifa-Amman route targeting Arab Israeli passengers, Jordan's Minister of Transport Nasser Al Lawzi said on Monday.

"A recent meeting was held in which we discussed a memorandum of understanding, launching two flights a week to Haifa (one for each airline) and adding an extra flight on the Ben Gurion (Tel Aviv)-Amman route," he told Reuters.

Mr. Lawzi said the agreement reached in principle during talks two weeks ago was still subject to approval by both governments.

Officials said Jordan had proposed the Haifa-Amman route to cash in on the potential of the large Arab minority in Israel, predominantly in northern Israel around the Haifa area. Many have close family ties with Jordanians.

Arab Israelis crossed into Jordan in large numbers after a peace accord



JOINT JORDANIAN-ISRAELI TRANSPORT COMMITTEE HOLDS CONFERENCE: A joint Jordanian-Israeli transport committee Tuesday met in Amman and discussed vehicle traffic between the two countries as well as land and water merchandise transportation. The Jordanian side was led by Secretary General Issa Ayyoub and the Israeli side was headed by Ministry of Transport Director General Nahoul Lintal (Petra photo)

between the two countries in 1994 ended a 46-year state of belligerency. But

most preferred to take the northern land route rather than head south to Tel Aviv

and go by air. Royal Wings, a subsidiary of national carrier Royal

Jordanian (RJ), has flown five flights a week between Tel Aviv and Amman since April, in line with a joint transport accord signed last January. Israel's mainly domestic carrier Arkia operates another five flights a week.

Under the accord, the two sides have pledged to review traffic and discuss increasing the frequency of flights and passenger traffic on their air route every six months.

Mr. Lawzi said the Jordanian-Israeli joint committee set up to review progress in implementing the accord would meet on Tuesday in Amman.

The meetings, headed by transport undersecretaries, will look at other transport issues.

Public and tourist buses and private cars have started to cross the border, but Jordan's say bureaucratic hurdle under the pretext of delayed key cross-border trade, continue to hold back the flow of goods traffic.

CDD meets with Omanis

AMMAN (J.T.) — Civil Defence Department (CDD) Director General Theeb Maani Tuesday met with an Omani Delegation to discuss civil defence cooperation between the two countries.

The Omani officials, Police Inspector General Mohammad Riyami and Head of the Omani Civil Defence Saif Al Ta'i were briefed regarding CDD operations and public services.

They were later taken on a tour of the department's centres where they met with civil defence staff and inspected equipment and facilities.

The Omani officials expressed their country's willingness to promote civil defence cooperation with the Kingdom.

Major General Maani presented the Omani officials with CDD shields.

The CDD also announced Tuesday that its crews were called to deal with 89 incidents in the past 24 hours.

These incidents included first aid, rescue operations and fire fighting incidents which caused a total of 30 injuries.

In addition, the announcement said, an accident involving a 60-year old man, run over by a car in the Karak governorate, proved fatal and the man passed away in a treatment facility.

Prime minister meets with contracting sector to discuss legislation

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Tuesday addressed the inaugural session of a seminar on the unification of contracting sector legislation and maintained the government's appreciation for its role in constructing the Kingdom.

Mr. Kabariti said that the government will endorse and enforce recommendations passed by the seminar as long as they are "balanced" and serve national interests.

The government prioritises the unification of legislation governing the contracting sectors as well as the disposal of overlapping regulations which have been causing confusion, the prime minister said.

Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Hadi Majali stressed that the government is determined to achieve a qualitative improvement in the development of the contracting sector.

The Ministry of Public Works and Housing encouraged the execution of a study of current business legislation related to contracting with the purpose of



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Tuesday addresses the inaugural session of a contracting sector seminar. Minister of Public Works and Housing discusses studies of current business legislation (Petra photo)

placing them under a single umbrella, the minister noted.

He said "the study convinced us that some rules and legislation have become obsolete and do not cater to the country's needs and aspirations in entering the 21st century."

"The following three factors were taken into consideration in the course of the

study: the Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) law, government public works regulations and the interests of the contractors," said Mr. Majali.

The Presidents of the JEA and the Jordan Contractors Association addressed the meeting and pledged to join forces with the Ministry of Public Works in order to arrive at a suitable formula

for the development of the contracting sector.

Last August, the prime minister agreed upon the formation of a committee headed by the Minister of Public Works to draw up a draft law on unifying the rules which govern the contracting sector.

The present meeting will examine progress achieved so far.

AACO announces conclusion of civil aviation agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO) Training Centre Mousa Anz Tuesday announced the conclusion of an agreement with the American University of Beirut (AUB) to run a 1997 training programme on civil aviation.

Mr. Anz said that the participants in these programmes will either attend training at the Amman-based centre or at the university in Beirut further stating that the training will be organised in two to three-week periods with participants completing the curricula in two to four years and receiving certification.

Mr. Anz said that the training pro-

gramme is the only one of its kind in the Middle East and is directed to raising the efficiency of Arab airlines' company executives through the upgrade of managerial skills.

Last July, the AACO announced that 18 Arab airlines agreed to send their employees for training at the AACO centre and appointed Mr. Anz as the centre's director.

The European Union promised to support the creation of the centre which will coordinate operations with the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

According to Mr. Anz the centre, which formally opened earlier this

month, is set to hold a training course on Nov. 10 with participants coming from various Arab, European and African airlines.

This session, he said, will focus on issuing tickets and calculating tariffs, adding that the centre will run a six-week training course beginning Nov. 19 to be attended by university graduates planning to work in civil aviation fields.

Mr. Anz said that he expects more than 500 Arab and foreign airlines employees to get training at the centre within a year of commencing courses.

WHAT'S GOING ON

PANEL PRESENTATION

* "Jordanian Journalists Look at U.S. Elections" (Arabic) with the participation of Jordanian journalists at the American Centre auditorium at 4:00 p.m.

CONCERT

* Spanish folkloric concert at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

LECTURE

* Lecture by Mohammad Abu Zuraq on the works of Mohammad Nasrallah at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Exhibition of works by Zurich-based Jordanian artist Nabil Shehadeh at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh. Also displaying works by Jordanian artist Mohammad Nasrallah and works by contemporary artists, until Nov. 13.

* "Timeless Weaving and New Creations — Home Furnishings and Accessories" at the Jordan Crafts Development Centre (Al Aydi), Jabal Amman, Second Circle, until Oct. 31.

* Jordan Industries Expo at Amman International Auto Exhibit, Airport Road, until Nov. 1.

* Abstract (plastic) art by Sa'id Haddadin at Orfali Art Gallery, Um Utaina, until Nov. 5.

* Bani Hamida Women's Weaving Project '96 fall exhibition "Race the Trend" at Citroen-Dirani Showroom, Shmeisani until Nov. 3.

* Exhibition of "Visual Forms" by Abdul Latif Al Smoodi at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens St., until Oct. 30.

* Exhibition entitled "Jerusalem Domes, Doors and Windows", comprising photos by Julia Reinhold and paintings by Riham Ghassib at the Gallery, the Inter-Continental Hotel, until Oct. 31.

* "Wadi Al Faynan Art Exhibition" — works by several artists inspired by Wadi Faynan at Balka Art Gallery, until Oct. 31.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Minister meets with Swiss ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Finance Marwan Awad Tuesday received Swiss Ambassador to Jordan Gian Federico Pedotti and the two discussed projects which have been financed by a Swiss grant to the Kingdom.

Saraireh meets with Canadian ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Post and Communications Janial Saraireh Tuesday received Canadian Ambassador to Jordan Michael Malloy and the men debated further cooperation in postal services.

Iranian Islamic council holds discussions

TEHRAN (Petra) — Jordan's Ambassador to Iran Noub Ali Salman Tuesday visited the Islamic Shura Council in Tehran and met with Deputy Speaker Hujat Islam Hassan Rohani. Discussions covered relations between the two countries as well as the ratification of agreements related to trade cooperation and international transportation. The ambassador also met with director of the Iranian Radio and Television Corporation and discussed issues related to radio and television corporations.

مكتبة ابن رشد

Clinton trumpets federal deficit cut; Dole 'baffled'

WASHINGTON (R) — A buoyant President Bill Clinton took credit for a declining federal deficit Monday as Republican Bob Dole lamented apparent public disinterest in alleged White House scandals, saying, "I'm baffled."

In a CNN interview, Sen. Dole acknowledged that his recent ferocious attacks on Mr. Clinton's ethics have failed to turn the campaign around, with only eight days left until election day on Nov. 5.

"I'm baffled. I really am baffled ... If the American people really care and they're really concerned about who's in charge, something ought to get their attention sooner or later," Sen. Dole said. He speculated that perhaps the voters were confused by the sheer number of Clinton controversies.

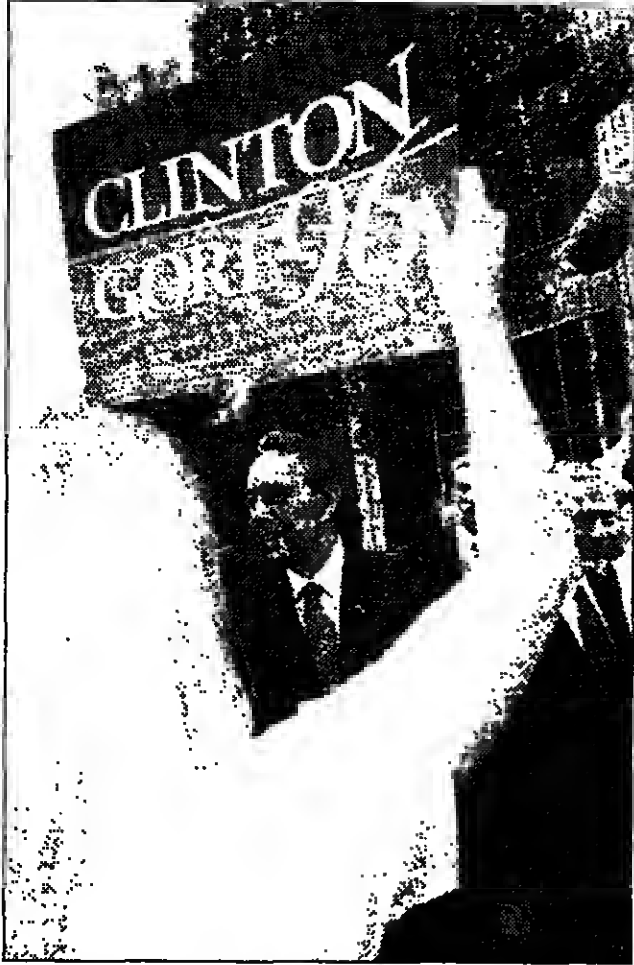
The Reuters daily tracking poll showed the president holding a steady lead of more than 13 percentage points over Sen. Dole — enough for a huge victory if the numbers hold.

An ABC tracking poll showed Mr. Clinton's support at its highest since early September and Sen. Dole's at its lowest since mid-August, producing a 19-point Clinton lead.

In University City, Missouri, Mr. Clinton took credit for new figures showing a further decline in the U.S. budget deficit, saying it was evidence his economic policies were working.

On the steps of city hall, he stood in front of a large chart showing the country's red ink spending was \$290 billion in 1992 when he was elected and had declined every year since.

Two teenagers joined him to pull a string unveiling the deficit figure for the 1996 budget year that ends on Oct. 31. It was \$107 billion, the lowest figure since



Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole passes through a crowd of Clinton supporters after a speech Monday. Sen. Dole continues to trail Mr. Clinton by a wide margin in most polls, as the campaign heads into the final week. California Governor Pete Wilson is on his right (Reuters photo)

1981, Republican Ronald Reagan's first year as president.

"We all know that our budget would be in surplus today if it weren't for the interest we pay on the debt rung up in the 12 years before I took office," Mr. Clinton said.

Republicans, who have controlled Congress for the last two years, tried to take credit for the deficit decline, claiming their drive to cut federal spending forced the figure down.

Budget Committee Chairman John Kasich of Ohio said that "this accomplish-

mative action — race and gender-based preferences in hiring, contracting and education."

"The overwhelming majority of Americans and Californians believe as I do that we should promote equal equality for all, without regard to race or gender... But at the same time we believe it is wrong to use quotas, set-asides and other preferences," Sen. Dole said.

Reflecting fears Sen. Dole may be headed for a big defeat, the Republican Party opened a multi-million dollar TV ad blitz aimed at keeping their hold on the House of Representatives, which they won in 1994 after 40 years in the minority.

The advertisement warned voters against reelecting Mr. Clinton with a Democratic Congress, saying the Democrats in 1993 and 1994 produced "the largest tax increase in history... More wasteful Washington spending... A government run health care scheme."

James Hilly, a historian at Temple University in Philadelphia, said Republican congressional candidates had no choice other than to join Sen. Dole because he had become "absolutely irrelevant" to many voters.

There was little sign that a last-gasp Dole effort to win in California was producing results. A Los Angeles Times poll in predominantly Republican Orange County showed him virtually tied with Mr. Clinton. Republicans normally need to carry the county by 250,000 votes or more to win the state.

Meanwhile Republicans continued to turn their backs on their nominee. Media adviser Don Sipple, who left the Dole campaign last month, told Newsweek Sen. Dole was stuck in the 1950s and 1960s and would not make a good president.



President Bill Clinton wades into a crowd of reaching arms after a speech at the Target Centre in Minneapolis Monday. Mr. Clinton spent his day touring through the midwest, including stops in Missouri, Minnesota, Illinois and Ohio (Reuters photo)

Islamic party launches movement to oust Bhutto

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan (AFP) — Pakistan's Muslim Fundamentalist Party Tuesday stepped up a nationwide campaign to bring down the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto after two days of clashes.

"No one should take rest even for a single day and people must continue their ceaseless struggle," Qazi Hussain Ahmad, chief of the Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) party, told a mass rally here. Mr. Ahmad called upon thousands of JI supporters at the rally to hold daily public meetings and demonstrations in all major cities and towns from Wednesday until the Bhutto government was ousted.

He said President Farooq Ahmad Leghari must sack the prime minister and order new elections "if he wants to stay in the presidential house."

The crowd chanted "death to Bhutto" and "Islamic revolution."

Youths, some wearing headbands inscribed with Koranic verses, also waved the party's green flag.

Mr. Ahmad said his party would not accept any "unconstitutional" change. "We are against martial law," he declared, adding the JI wanted an Islamic government which could provide justice for all.

Unveiling the party's future plans against the "corrupt" Bhutto government, he said a women's rally would be staged in Islamabad on Nov. 11 with a protest outside parliament.

Women supporters from across the country will assemble at the main Faisal Mosque in Islamabad before proceeding to parliament, he said.

"The Jamaat will not tolerate any obstruction" to the demonstration, the 58-year-old leader warned.

Mr. Ahmad, arrested and held for several hours Monday by police, was among several hundred supporters who withstood heavy tear gas shelling and broke through a police barricade in an attempt to push towards the parliament building.

The crowd dispersed after saying prayers outside parliament house. "We achieved our target," JI information secretary Amirul Azim said.

Mr. Ahmad had called a "massive" protest outside parliament Sunday. But a government crackdown foiled the march on Islamabad and the militants made a second attempt Monday.

Scores of people were injured in two days of clashes between JI activists and security forces. One activist reportedly hit by a tear gas shell Sunday died in Lahore Tuesday.

Japan says island flap should not jeopardise ties with China

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan and China wound up annual talks between their vice foreign ministers Tuesday with Tokyo saying it hoped ties would not be damaged by a territorial dispute, a Japanese foreign ministry official said.

The official, who asked not to be named, said there was a "very frank exchange of views" in four main areas including the dispute over islands in the East China Sea along with Japan's view of historical issues.

"Both sides agreed it was useful and a good exchange of views," he said, adding the two sides also discussed overall bilateral issues, Japan-U.S. security issues and Japan's disposal of wartime chemical weapons left in China.

The official said Japan's Vice-Minister Shunji Yanai and his Chinese counterpart Tang Jiaxuan reiterated their respective views on the islands, known as the Senkaku Group in Japanese and the Diaoyu Islands in Chinese.

"The Japanese side reiterated its hope that the issue would be calmly handled so that friendly relations would not be jeopardised," the official said, adding that Japan offered to make "further efforts" to cool the dispute.

"The Chinese side said that they had kept very calm and restrained in response to this issue," the official said.

Following a move by Japanese rightists to erect a lighthouse on one of the islands in July, Beijing has made diplomatic protests while activists from Taiwan and Hong Kong have staged protests in waters off the islands.

The two sides also discussed Japan's view on historical issues, frequently criticised as insensitive by China and other Asian countries subjected to Japanese military aggression during World War II.

"The Chinese side said that the views on history are closely linked to Japan-China friendship and should be properly dealt with," the official said.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto triggered protests in several Asian countries earlier this year when he visited the controversial Yasukuni War Shrine in Tokyo, becoming the first Japanese premier to do so in 11 years.

Vice Foreign Minister Sadayuki Hayashi reportedly said earlier that there were "various problems" and that he hoped the talks would "help deepen our mutual understanding and bring us closer to the resolution of such problems."

In Beijing Tuesday, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Shen Guofang said the territorial issue was "not course the main issue" in the talks.

"We hope that the Japanese government takes action on this issue so as to relieve tension it has caused," Mr. Shen said. He also cited Japan's failure to recognise "historical errors," urging Japanese to "correct their attitude."

Japan has made several gestures to end the political storm, notably by supporting China's bid join the world trade organisation.

And Japanese foreign ministry spokesman Hiroshi Hashimoto hinted Tuesday that Japan would probably end a moratorium on grants to China imposed in protest at China's nuclear tests, which have now been suspended.

"The Japan-China relationship is very important not only for the Asia-Pacific region but also for the entire international society," he said. "We are supporting efforts for reforms and the open-door policy by the Chinese government and we are determined to continue on this direction."

During the talks Tuesday, the two sides agreed that Japanese compensation for wartime chemical weapons left in China would start in December and that it was important to continue their dialogue on Japan-U.S. security arrangements.

Japan and the United States agreed in April that their bilateral security treaty should cover areas "surrounding" Japan.

"We explained our basic position and emphasised the point that the Japanese-U.S. security arrangement contributes to the stability of the region," the official said.

"It will never change the basic framework of the existing Japan-U.S. security ties and it will not be directed to any other country."

"The Chinese side expressed the view that the Japanese-U.S. security arrangement should not go beyond its scope," he said.

Kohl leaves Indonesia after failing to meet Nobel Laureate

JAKARTA (R) — German Chancellor Helmut Kohl left Indonesia Tuesday for the Philippines after a four-day visit in which he had hoped to meet Nobel Peace Prize laureate Bishop Carlos Belo.

Mr. Kohl, whose visit focused mainly on trade and economic ties, said he failed to meet Bishop Belo. He added that arrangements had been under way to arrange a meeting for about a month, and German delegation sources said Mr. Kohl had expected to meet the bishop.

But Bishop Belo, awarded the prize for his work in the troubled territory of East Timor, said Tuesday he had not been officially invited to meet the German leader despite claims he had rejected such an opportunity.

He said, however, he would have been too busy to come to Jakarta from East Timor to meet Mr. Kohl even if the invitation had been received.

"There has not been any official invitation. This matter is not so clear," Bishop Belo told Reuters by telephone from his residence in the East Timor capital Dili.

"I have not yet received an invitation, either written or verbal," he said, adding that he had many pastoral duties in East Timor and would have been too busy to come.

"I had a visit to the districts...I could not meet him because these had been long planned," he said.

Mr. Kohl, who was accompanied by several ministers and businessmen, told reporters Monday he had held meaningful discussions with Indonesian President

Suharto. Other officials said members of the German delegation signed contracts worth 1.34 billion marks (\$855 million) with Indonesian businessmen.

Germany is Indonesia's largest European market with two-way trade estimated at \$4.46 billion in 1995, up 73 per cent from 1990.

Mr. Kohl said his talks with Suharto also touched on human rights and on East Timor, a former Portuguese colony.

He also expressed regret that a meeting with Bishop Belo never took place.

"I regret it was cancelled," Mr. Kohl told a news conference, adding that apparently Bishop Belo was busy touring East Timor.

German delegation sources said the bishop failed to appear at a meeting the chancellor had Monday with other Indonesian church leaders.

Bishop Belo was jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize early this month with self-exiled East Timorese resistance leader Jose Ramos Horta, who had called on Mr. Kohl to raise the East Timor issue with Mr. Suharto.

Indonesian troops invaded East Timor in December 1975 and Jakarta declared it Indonesia's 27th province the following year. The United Nations has never recognised the move and still regards Portugal as the administering power.

Mr. Kohl arrived in Jakarta Saturday for his fourth visit to Indonesia since 1983. He spent Sunday fishing in the Java Sea with Mr. Suharto before beginning the official part of his visit Monday.

Fighting erupts between Philippine army, rebels

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AFP) — Heavy fighting between Philippine government troops and Muslim rebels erupted again Tuesday in the southern Philippines, but the government said it expected ceasefire negotiations to begin soon.

As the fighting broke out in three remote villages in the south, an aide to President Fidel Ramos said in Manila that the ceasefire talks could begin next week.

"We're proceeding with the talks and we're looking at early next week, after All Souls' Day (Nov. 21)," said Executive Secretary Ruben Torres. "We have asked our agreed liaison persons to work on the schedule."

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), with an officially estimated 10,000 fighters, is the last major insurgent group still fighting in the Mindanao region after Manila signed a peace treaty with the Moro National Liberation Front last month.

Fighting with the MILF broke out simultaneously Tuesday in three remote villages near the town of Tipo-Tipo but no casualties were immediately reported.

The government also received unconfirmed reports that a smaller Muslim faction, the Abu Sayyaf, had joined forces with the MILF, said military spokesman Presdesvino Covarrubias.

The Abu Sayyaf is held responsible for kidnappings and bombings in the south, including the pillaging of a Christian town last year in which at least 50 people were killed.

Southern command military Chief Ruperto Amilal has ordered field commanders to pursue MILF rebels "without let-up," as the MILF leadership expressed scepticism about the government's call for ceasefire negotiations.

"We feel doubtful on the real intention of the govern-

ment. They offered an interim ceasefire and they attack Basilan," said MILF vice-chairman for military affairs Al Haj Murad. He was referring to the government's attack last week on a rebel base in Basilan, forcing some 200 rebels to flee.

But government emissaries have been holding preliminary talks with MILF representatives, and "the moment we get an interim ceasefire agreed, then all these military activities and operations in the areas claimed by the MILF ... will stop," Mr. Torres said.

The MILF is a splinter group of the Moro National Liberation Front, which ended its 24-year armed separatist bid with last month's peace treaty that will give Muslims a large measure of autonomy in the south.

But there have been questions about the treaty's effectiveness with other groups still fighting and with opposition as well from the region's christian majority.

The MILF is now considered the government's biggest threat to peace in the southern Philippines.

Tuesday's fighting began after a military patrol engaged a group of between 20 and 30 MILF rebels who had been set to ambush them. Mr. Covarrubias said.

He claimed the gunmen were former rebels turned bandits who entered Tipo-Tipo town and planned to "kidnap teachers and extort money."

But the MILF leadership said they were still part of their movement. Mr. Covarrubias said the military had not received orders from Manila to cease the assault.

"We have not received any official communication so we will continue with our operation. We pity the people ... they are being harassed and being extorted from," he said.

Activists urge ASEAN to put pressure on Burma

BANGKOK (R) — Asian human rights activists urged southeast Asian nations Tuesday to follow the United States and Europe and put more pressure on Burma's military rulers over human rights abuses.

"We think the situation in Burma is getting worse," Somchai Homlaor, secretary general of the Asian forum for human rights and development, told Reuters.

The seven-member Association of South East Asian nations (ASEAN) "should work harder to put pressure on SLORC," he said, referring to Burma's ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council.

The European Union imposed strict limits Monday on contacts with SLORC officials.

The action, similar to recent moves by Washington, bars visas to SLORC members and their families and to some senior military members as part of a build-up of pressure on Burma's ruling junta. The 15-member EU also suspended all high-level EU visits to Burma.

Mr. Somchai was speaking before the start of a two-day "alternative ASEAN" meeting involving more than 80 activists, academics and exiled Burmese from 50 organisations around Asia.

The aim of the meeting was to discuss how ASEAN — which groups Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore, Brunei and Vietnam — could better influence Burma.

ASEAN has a policy of "constructive engagement" aimed at keeping Burma from becoming isolated in order to try and reform it from within. Rangoon has observer status to ASEAN and has applied to join the group at its next formal meeting in July.

Western nations oppose Burma's entry into ASEAN because of the military regime's human rights record and its failure to enter into dialogue with the opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) led by Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

Organisers of the alternative ASEAN meeting welcomed the pressure on Burma's military government by the EU and United States but said further steps needed to be taken by Asian countries.

"It is the first step, but it is not enough. The International Community should put harder pressure on SLORC, like economic sanctions," said Gothom Arya, a political scientist at Chulalongkorn University and host of the meeting. "ASEAN should do the same," he said. "We are in a much more important position, at least geographically. We are from the same culture ... As neighbours to Burma we should do more."

A Burmese official said Monday that the EU move would have little impact because Burmese officials did not travel much to the West.

The junta's latest crackdown on the democracy movement — when it detained 573 activists to prevent an NLD meeting from taking place in late September — and detention last week of Kyi Maung, deputy chairman of the NLD, sparked world condemnation.

The SLORC has said all the activists have since been freed.

Kyi Maung, 75, was released Monday after being held in a government guesthouse for a week for questioning over his alleged role in a rare student protest.

The NLD won a landslide victory in a 1990 election but never assumed power after the SLORC, which organised the poll, refused to recognise the results.

S. Korea sentences 110 students in crackdown

SEOUL (R) — A South Korean court Tuesday jailed 51 students and handed suspended prison terms to another 59 for their part in violent pro-North Korean campus unrest in August, court officials said.

The sentences are part of a harsh crackdown on South Korea's student movement, which backed President Kim Young-Sam's rise to power but which Kim has now branded a "terrorist" threat to national security.

Authorities say the movement has been hijacked by stooges of enemy North Korea and maintain there is no place for violent youth activism in a new era of democracy.

The verdicts were the first from trials taking place in separate courtrooms of 444 students following the violence at Seoul's prestigious Yonsei University.

Fifty-one students were sentenced to jail terms of between eight months and three years for taking part in an illegal protest, engaging in acts of violence and obstructing officials in their duty.

The others were handed suspended jail sentences of between one year and 1-1/2 years, meaning they will not have to spend times behind bars if they stay out of trouble.

Presiding Judge Min Hyong-Ki told the court the protests "benefitted the enemy", state media reported.

"These protests hampered social stability and a stern application of the law is inevitable," he said. "We cannot glorify contraventions of law and order in the name of unification."

The sentences were a warning against violent protests that cause "enormous human and property damage", he said.

Riot police stormed Yonsei to end an occupation of

two teaching blocks by students taking part in an annual pro-North Korean unification rally and protesting against the presence of 37,000 U.S. troops in South Korea.

One riot policeman died in pitched fighting. A teaching block, whose interior was smashed beyond repair by students armed with iron bars, has been opened to the public by university authorities as a museum of violence.

On Monday police arrested the leader of a radical student body, Hanchong-ryon, which led the Yonsei demonstrations. Park Byoung-Un, 23, was held along with 23 others.

Although Seoul is committed to a unification, authorities accused the students of embracing North Korea's blueprint for a merger that would leave intact both Pyongyang's Communist government and Seoul's Democratic government.

Police produced stacks of North Korean propaganda they said were seized from the students.

North and South Korea have been in armed confrontation since a 1953 truce ended the Korean war and sealed the World War II division of the Korean peninsula.

North Korea has denounced the action against leftist student demonstrators, which comes amid rising anti-Communist sentiment in South Korea.

Public attitudes towards Pyongyang have been hardened by the infiltration last month of a North Korean submarine that dropped 26 agents on a South Korean beach.

Ordinary South Koreans were outraged by the student violence. President Kim, a former dissident leader, has vowed to deal harshly with future campus unrest.



File photo of captured North Korean soldier Lee Kang-soo (left) after his arrest last month. Lee confirmed North Korean infiltration in September to the South at a news conference Tuesday. Mr. Lee and 25 North Korean soldiers landed in the South by submarine at a beach on the east coast last month. South Korea has stepped up security after Pyongyang threatened to retaliate for the death of 22 North Koreans (Reuters photo)

Captured N. Korean says sub was on spy mission

SEOUL (R) — The only North Korean captured alive after landing from a submarine last month said Tuesday the vessel was on a spy mission and faced little difficulty slipping through South Korean coastal defences.

Lee Kwang-Soo, 31, said the crew of the Shark-class vessel pledged loyalty to North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il in front of the head of the Reconnaissance Bureau on the eve of their infiltration on Sept. 14.

Lee, a coxswain, challenged Pyongyang's assertions the submarine drifted into Southern waters after developing engine trouble. "It is a lie," he told his first news conference since he was captured on Sept. 18.

Tensions have been high on the Korean peninsula since the submarine landed 26 North Koreans on an east coast beach last month. All but three of the infiltrators have been killed or captured.

Seoul has demanded a "clear apology" from Pyongyang over the intrusion, while North Korea has threatened to retaliate "a hundredfold or a thousandfold" over the killings and demanded the return of the bodies, the survivors and the submarine.

South Korean troops have killed 11 North Koreans and found the bodies of 11 others, possibly killed by one of their own number. Mr. Lee said infiltrators were instructed to kill themselves if they faced arrest.

Mr. Lee said he belonged to one of three submarine units specialising in sending spies into the South and his unit based in Nakwon operated four infiltration submarines.

"If you come in by a submarine you can do it as many times as you like," he told reporters.

Mr. Lee said his submarine passed a South Korean navy vessel equipped with sonar detectors.

"We could evade it with ease," he said.

Mr. Lee said he believed the North had collected most of the information needed to stage a war with the South and had been sending reconnaissance teams to confirm targets in the South.

A statement of the Agency for National Security Planning said Mr. Lee told investigators that the Communist North had been building submarines for infiltration since the early 1990s.

A 1,000-tonne submarine was being built for his unit, Mr. Lee was quoted as telling the investigators. The vessel is capable of carrying 50 crew members and 30 commandos, it said.

Mr. Lee said his submarine had offloaded a reconnaissance team that infiltrated into the South and was grounded while trying to approach the beach to pick up the team on Sept. 17.

The submarine lay stuck on rocks unnoticed by South Korean security forces until an alert taxi driver spotted the conning tower of the vessel looming out of the darkness.

The South Korean Defence Ministry, which immediately launched a massive manhunt, described the incursion as a preparation for wider military provocation.

Mr. Lee said he overheard a colleague on board the vessel boasting that he had sneaked into South Korea on three other occasions.

He said he believed the three North Koreans who had evaded a manhunt by tens of thousands of troops would have returned to the North by now.

Size of Russian army is a riddle at home and abroad

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's vast army is in such a chaotic state that not even its leaders who are poised to carry out military reform have a clear idea of how big it is, a top Kremlin official said in an interview published Tuesday.

"At the moment, no one can say how many people we have on active military service," Yuri Baturin, the secretary of President Boris Yeltsin's Defence Council, told RIA Novosti.

The London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies says post-Soviet Russia has 1.27 million active members in the armed forces, with 20 million in reserve.

But Mr. Baturin thinks the figure for active servicemen may be much higher.

"Speaking roughly, and rounding the figure to hundreds of thousands, we are

talking about 2.5 million servicemen as the current power of the Defence Ministry," he said.

Mr. Baturin said his estimate included "ghost" troops and military installations which did not figure in the national military budget — a leftover from the cold war era when details of the Soviet war machine were cloaked in secrecy.

Even in the post-Soviet period, the Russian Armed Forces rank as one of the biggest military forces in the world with only China and the United States comparable in manpower.

The size of the armed forces and the deployment of units, whose duties frequently overlap across the vast Russian Federation, are central to plans for military reform.

Mr. Yeltsin, who is preparing for heart surgery, set

up the defence council comprising top state officials to kick-start long-awaited reform and tackle a bitter financial crisis in the armed forces.

Defence Minister Igor Rodionov has said the cash-strapped and poorly-equipped armed forces are on the brink of collapse and has called for a boost in military spending.

During his reelection campaign last summer Mr. Yeltsin ordered military reforms to be undertaken to slim down the armed forces and make them more effective.

Mr. Rodionov wants reductions in army personnel to go along with cuts in military forces controlled by the Interior Ministry, Federal Security Service, Border Guards and others.

Mr. Baturin said the collapse of the Soviet Union

and the bitter economic crisis were the main reasons behind the army's problems.

"Russia took over some 85 per cent of the Soviet Union's armed forces and only 65 per cent of its economic potential," he said. "This has caused a gap which is widening every year."

"After all we came to a situation when a considerable number of army structures officially exist without any funding and are left to look for themselves."

But he said the "ghost" troops were also to blame.

"When salary delays start it often happens because we allocate money for the 'documented' forces but they have to pay all, including military formations which formally do not exist," Mr. Baturin said.

Yeltsin 'should govern until 2000' after operation

MOSCOW (AFP) — Boris Yeltsin's impending heart operation should enable the Russian president to remain in power until the end of his four-year mandate, the Kremlin's top doctor Sergei Mironov said in an interview Tuesday.

"If everything goes as planned during both the operation and the period of convalescence, then — touch wood — I am convinced that Boris Nikolaevich will be able to work fully until the end of his presidential mandate," Dr. Mironov said in an interview in Tuesday's edition of the Komsomolskaya Pravda.

Mr. Yeltsin's mandate expires in July, 2000.

He added that the lengthy preparation time of between six and 10 weeks before the 65-year-old president's multiple coronary bypass operation was necessary to "achieve a positive prognosis regarding the result of the operation."

"Any surgical intervention, especially when it concerns the heart, is to a certain extent, a risk. But we are prepared for any kind of complication and I think that we will be able to overcome them," Dr. Mironov continued.

The doctor acknowledged that analysis of Mr. Yeltsin's blood had been unsatisfactory.

"Yes, this problem has existed and we have not concealed the fact. We are in the process of overcoming it. I think that we are on the right lines, and we have already made some progress," Dr. Mironov claimed.

Dr. Mironov said that so far, everything was going as planned, including the date of the operation, set for between the middle and end of November.

The hospital in which the operation will be carried out — either the Chazov Heart Centre or the Kremlin's Central Hospital — will only be decided during the final stages of preparation, according to Dr. Mironov.

He said he sees Mr. Yeltsin more frequently than anyone else, and that the Russian president continues to spend between one-and-a-half and two hours a day working.

On Monday, Mr. Yeltsin's doctors ordered him to cancel all engagements scheduled for this week to allow him to undergo a series of tests.

The reluctance of doctors to officially announce a specific date for the surgery has fuelled speculation that the operation could take place without any prior announcement to ease the pressure on the Kremlin, the surgeons and Mr. Yeltsin himself.

NATO to sign accord with Russia by start of 1997, Solana says

MOSCOW (AFP) — NATO and Russia will sign a document spelling out the terms of their relations by the beginning of next year, NATO Secretary General Javier Solana told Interfax news agency in an exclusive interview Tuesday.

Mr. Solana said "either a charter or an accord" on NATO's relations with Russia "will be signed by the beginning of 1997, and if possible, by the end of 1996."

Mr. Solana, who was speaking in Brussels, said he would do his best to "reach a solid agreement, with which both Russia and NATO will be comfortable."

He said the joint document would probably consist of three parts.

"The first part will be a declaration, the second will contain a mechanism for consultations and the third a

mechanism for cooperation."

Mr. Solana said the name of the document "is not that important, though it may be important at a later stage."

Talks between the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and Russia have stalled over the alliance's planned expansion into Eastern Europe.

Moscow is opposed to NATO membership for its former Communist allies and is calling for a gradual process, including a reform of NATO and the signing of a pact with Moscow which would give Russia legal guarantees, before the expansion could take place.

Russia has insisted that an accord with NATO should be legally binding, giving it a de facto right to review the alliance's decisions.

It wants an accord which goes further than a simple charter or declaration of

principles.

Mr. Solana said both sides should "clear the atmosphere of misunderstandings."

"We have the same goals — we both want stability on the continent," he said, stressing that Russia and NATO "should cooperate with each other."

"As far as NATO and its secretary general are concerned, I can say that we will try to build very firm, deep and comprehensive relations with Russia."

Mr. Solana said Russia's concerns about NATO expansion eastward could be resolved by adapting the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty to the new realities in Europe.

He dismissed speculation that NATO could deploy nuclear weapons on the territory of countries in Central Europe.

EU envoy arrives in Rwanda for talks on Zaire fighting

KIGALI (AFP) — A European Union envoy said here Tuesday he would try to ease tensions in the Great Lakes Region where fighting between soldiers and Tutsi rebels has plunged eastern Zaire into chaos.

"My visit is linked to what is happening in Kivu," Aldo Ajello told AFP, referring to a troubled eastern province of Zaire.

Mr. Ajello, a special envoy for the region, arrived in the Rwandan capital Monday evening and said he would stay two or three days.

Mr. Ajello was charged by the EU last week to try to find a peaceful solution to the crisis in Zaire's Kivu region, on the border with Rwanda, where Tutsi rebels known as Banyamulenge are battling Zairean government troops.

More than half of the one million Rwandan Hutu refugees sheltering in the country have fled in all directions to escape the violence, which Kinshasa claims has been stoked by the Tutsi-led governments of Rwanda and Burundi.

Mr. Ajello's aim is to calm the tension and to facilitate the resumption of dialogue between Rwandan and Zairean authorities.

On Monday, however, Rwandan Foreign Minister Anastase Gasasa said it was unacceptable to speak of mediation or a ceasefire with Zaire, and reaffirmed that his country was in no way involved in the fighting there.

Mr. Ajello, who was in Kigali two weeks ago, has been seeking to organise a conference on the crisis in the Great Lakes Region.

But since then the situation has deteriorated, with Zaire openly accusing the Tutsi-led Rwandan government of being responsible for the chaotic situation in the eastern part of the country.

Fighting has also escalated, bringing eastern Zaire ever closer to a humanitarian disaster.

In a statement Monday the 15-member European Union called on the warring factions to immediately cease fighting to avoid a humanitarian tragedy.

The statement said Mr. Ajello would be working here with the representative of the U.N. secretary general, the Organisation of African Unity and local officials towards a solution to the conflict.

Zaire and Rwanda have been repeatedly exchanging accusations over the past two years.

About one million Rwandan Hutus escaped to Zaire in 1994, fleeing a genocide in which Hutu extremists massacred more than half a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

Meanwhile, Rwandan former Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu has accused his own country of aggression against Zaire and accused the International Community of complicity over the refugee crisis there.

In a statement received in Nairobi from Brussels, the Hutu ex-premier accused the Tutsi-led regime in Kigali of launching "deliberate attacks on refugee camps" in Zaire to force their inmates to return to Rwanda.

"Humanitarian organisations, in particular the UNHCR office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, are astonishing by their statements aimed at getting refugees to return to a country whose regime is destroying their camps with mortar fire," Mr. Twagiramungu said.

The ex-prime minister, who served in a Tutsi-dominated administration after the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) routed Hutu army and extremist militias who carried out mass genocide in 1994, was forced to resign in August 1995 after disagreements with colleagues.

His statement was signed on behalf of the Resistance Forces for Democracy (FRD), a movement claiming to represent more than one and half million Rwandan Hutus who fled the country to Zaire and Tanzania for fear of reprisals for the genocide.

Mr. Twagiramungu said that with these "violent methods, the voluntary return of refugees sponsored by the UNHCR has no more meaning," and added that "most of the male refugees who have gone back to Rwanda have been killed or are languishing in hidden death-cells in their home districts."

The FRD statement also charged that the tactics of the RPF are "supported by certain western countries", a claim interpreted as an attack on the United States.

The Hutu movement "also condemns the complacent attitude of the International Community, especially of certain great powers on the (U.N.) Security Council, which is reflected in their manifest silence and their unjustified abstention from condemning the aggression" against Zaire by Rwanda.

"There is a plan to detach South and North Kivu (provinces where the fighting is taking place) from Zaire and turn them into an autonomous territory, a vassal of the Kigali government," the FRD claimed.



South Korean students, bound together by ropes, are escorted by police into the Seoul Criminal Court Tuesday to be sentenced for the parts they played in violent pro-North Korean campus unrest. Fifty-one students were sentenced to jail terms of between eight months and three years for taking part in an illegal protest, engaging in acts of violence and obstructing officials in their duty (Reuters photo)

Sri Lanka army, rebels trade accusations on killings

COLOMBO (R) — The Sri Lankan military, fighting separatist Tamils in the Indian Ocean island's north and east, said Tuesday the weekend killing in Paris of two of the group's officials could be the work of fellow Tamils.

"These guys are up to all sorts of nefarious activity in Europe including drug smuggling, human trafficking and extortion," a military spokesman said, dismissing Tamil claims that Colombo was behind Saturday's killings.

"It is quite possible (the two deceased) crossed the path of any of these acquaintances," he told Reuters.

The rebels, fighting for a homeland for minority Ta-

mils, blamed the government, saying Sri Lanka's "state-sponsored terrorism was expanding its boundaries."

"The aim of the Sri Lankan government to undermine the Tamil freedom struggle has reached shameful depths," a statement from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam's (LTTE) international secretariat in London said.

The group was not immediately available to comment on the military's allegations.

The LTTE blamed Colombo for the killing of its treasurer Kandiah Perinpanathan, and Kandiah Gajendran, editor of the Tamil weekly newspaper Eela Murasu.

Paris police have said the two Sri Lankan Tamils, both in their 30s, were shot dead by a gunman in the predominantly immigrant La Chapelle district of northern Paris.

The gunman escaped. The military spokesman said the LTTE itself had ordered the killing of treasurer Perinpanathan, who he said had been found to be pilfering the organisation's money.

"The LTTE is trying to hush it up. Otherwise they are likely to see their funding reduced," the spokesman said.

The LTTE's international spokesman, Lawrence Thilaker, was quoted by the organisation's official voice of Tigers radio as saying "the killings have the hall-

mark of Sri Lanka's hands."

"The Sri Lankan government has sent special agents to crack down on the LTTE internationally," Tiger radio quoted Mr. Thilaker as saying.

The rebel statement said the two slain activists were popular among expatriate Tamils, who contributed lavishly towards the rebels' fight to establish a Tamil homeland.

"By killing these two remarkable individuals, the Sri Lankan government has not only tried to put barriers on the international work these two were involved in, but it also hopes to stop the solidarity activity of the Tamil community through creating fear, confusion and panic in their minds," it added.

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Realities cannot be ignored

AS HE stressed the importance of the role Europe can play in the Middle East peace process, His Majesty King Hussein made it clear during a press conference with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak yesterday that a stronger European involvement in the region can complement, and not compete with, the role of the United States.

Hence is the receptiveness and encouragement that Jordan showed towards European efforts to become more active in the quest for peace in the region. Jordan believes that the peace process should receive all the help it can get as it passes through difficult and challenging times. Europe can and is interested in pushing the peace process forward. That much is demonstrated by the fact that Europe is the largest financier of the peace process. The appointment of a European Union (EU) special envoy to the region is an indication of the seriousness of Europe in seeking a supportive role in the peace process.

The Arabs' anxiety to achieve just, durable and comprehensive peace is the basis for their enthusiasm for bringing Europe into the political efforts to bring peace to the region.

And it is this same concern for the peace process that brought King Hussein and President Mubarak together in Sharm Al Sheikh yesterday. The Kingdom and Egypt are key players in the region and their policies have shown their commitment to peace. But, as King Hussein pointed out recently, the peace that Jordan and obviously Egypt seek is not peace at any price.

The Arabs want a peace that can last. That means a just and comprehensive peace which addresses the concerns and fulfills the rights of all parties involved. At this point, Jordan and Egypt believe that the policies of the Likud government in Israel are standing in the way of achieving this peace. The way out is through Israel's implementation of the agreements it has signed with the Palestinians. That much the King and President Mubarak have repeatedly told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The two leaders stressed that yet again yesterday but Netanyahu has yet to heed the voice of reason.

The peace process thus remains stalemated. But the Palestinians are not the only losers as a result of the deadlock. Peace is a goal that can only benefit all peoples of the region. Delaying or preventing the attainment of this peace can hurt the Israelis as much as the Arabs. Netanyahu cannot afford to ignore this reality.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE UNITED States served as sponsor of the Middle East peace process for five years, but its efforts ended in a setback due to its failure to confront Israel and prevent its retreat from the path of peace, said Fahed Fanek, a writer for Al Ra'i daily Tuesday. This failure has created a vacuum which the Europeans are trying to fill, said the writer who emphasised that peace in this region is of interest to the whole world and the world community has all the right to interfere at this juncture. Europe has a special responsibility towards ensuring stability and security on its southern flank, something which emerged clearly in the French president's tour of the region in the past week, noted the writer. He said that France and Europe can by no means accept to be only paying bills, and they are clearly determined to play a meaningful role to reestablish security and a lasting peace in this region. Admitting its failure, the U.S. decided that its mediator, Dennis Ross, should withdraw from the negotiations and this withdrawal was opportune for the advent of a European peace mediator who will be touring the region soon, he added. It is true that the U.S. is in a better position to exercise some pressure on Israel, but, said the writer, there is no value to this position if Washington lacks the will to force the Jewish state to comply with the rules of the peace process.

REPORTS ABOUT threats on the life of President Arafat are only instruments of a new psychological war on the Palestinian leadership, aimed at weakening the Palestinian will to struggle, said Saleh Qallab, a writer for Al Dustour, Tuesday. The reports, which emanated from a western power, came at a time when the Palestinians and the Israelis were involved in negotiations over the redeployment of Israeli forces in the Hebron area and when the two sides were finding difficulties in reaching an agreement, said the writer. It is clear that whichever party was behind the reports and the rumours, they aim at forcing the Palestinian leader to give way to the Israeli demands, or else lose his life, because he stands as an obstacle in the way of Israel, according to the writer. He said that the Palestinians, who have been struggling to liberate their homeland, are not expected to be taken in by such rumours which, said the writer, constitute a propaganda campaign aimed at weakening the will of their negotiators and the force of their just struggle.

The Washington Watch

The lesson of Dearborn — organising and voting means victory

By Dr. James Zogby

IN 1985, Mike Guido first ran for mayor of Dearborn, Michigan, a city of 100,000 people. 20,000 of whom are Arab.

As part of his campaign, Guido mailed to every home in Dearborn a pamphlet entitled "Let's Talk about... the Arab Problem."

In the pamphlet, Guido decried the large number of Arabs who were moving into Dearborn. He described them as threatening "our neighbourhoods, the value of our property and our earned good way of life."

Using scare tactics about Arabs was Guido's way of winning votes.

I went to Dearborn in the midst of that crisis to do work with the community. Our analysis was simple — Arab Americans in Dearborn were vulnerable to attack because they were weak and unorganised.

With only 1,100 registered voters, they were easy prey. I said then that with our community making up 20 per cent of the population of Dearborn we were not the "problem" of Dearborn, but "the promise of its future." It was our responsibility to transform ourselves into that promise.

During the next ten years we organised, registered voters, and mobilised community participation in politics. Today, thousands more Arab Americans are voters, they hold public office, and form a strong bloc in both the Democratic and Republican parties in Dearborn and Michigan.

and are among that city and state's most respected citizens.

So it was no surprise that when the Arab American Institute (AAI) held its annual national leadership conference in Dearborn, October 20-21, 1996 (the first such conference outside Washington), Mayor Mike Guido came to our banquet to deliver a warm welcome to his Arab American friends.

What has happened in the intervening ten years? The Arab American community had grown in stature and the mayor, quite simply, can count votes. It has become important in Dearborn and in Michigan to take the Arab American voters seriously.

Guido's appearance was but an example of the new Arab American role in politics.

The conference, "Decision '96: The Arab American Vote" was designed to focus attention on the importance of Arab Americans in both Michigan and Ohio (a state-wide political rally had been held in Cleveland, Ohio, the night before the Dearborn conference).

Both states are home to large Arab American communities.

Participating in the two-day Dearborn event were the state's Republican governor, John Engler, both senators, Republican Spencer Abraham (an Arab American) and Democrat Carl Levin (a Jewish American whose reelection

campaign has been endorsed by most in the Arab American community), a number of members of Congress (most notably our own Nick Rahall), a candidates for a wide range of elective offices, leading officials in both political parties and national leaders from both the White House and the Dole campaign.

Before the conference actually began, a summit of Palestinian-American leaders met in a nearby hotel to publicly endorse President Clinton. Campaign officials, on hand to receive the endorsement, thanked the Palestinian leaders and pledged that the president would continue to enforce the Israeli-Palestinian peace accord. The next day's newspapers featured a bold headline: "Palestinian leaders turn to Democrats — Clinton gets backing in Dearborn."

In another endorsement announcement, a group of Lebanese American businessmen presented the Clinton campaign with their backing for the presidential election. It too, was received with appreciation.

Both cases were a far cry from 1988 when the Democratic nominee for president Michael Dukakis actually rejected Arab American endorsements, or 1984 when the Democratic nominee Walter Mondale returned contributions from some Arab American contributors.

Once again, a clear example of the progress being made by Arab Americans in

the political mainstream.

The policy discussions at the AAI conference were equally noteworthy. While significant attention was given to the issues of Palestine, Lebanon and U.S.-Arab relations, there was substantial discussion about a number of domestic policy concerns. The issues of immigration and immigrant rights, and civil liberties were highlighted.

So intense was the discussion on immigrant rights that one observer commented: "I remember when we couldn't get Arab Americans to discuss domestic issues at our conferences, all they wanted to talk about was the Middle East. Now we can't get people to focus on the Middle East."

But that too was a sign of progress. Arab Americans have definite concerns about Middle East issues and as a recent poll shows, there is a deep community consensus in support of the peace process, Palestinian statehood, and Lebanon's sovereignty. What is new is that Arab Americans today have become articulate defenders of their domestic policy concerns as well — often finding community leaders in the forefront of the national debate on these questions. This represents growth and maturity and political sophistication.

What the Michigan conference made clear is that Arab Americans have crossed the threshold into the U.S. political mainstream. Arab Americans

who have laboured for years trying to get inside, must now shake off old complexes and recognise new responsibilities and opportunities. This does not mean that there are no problems plaguing Arab Americans — in a democracy every group must continue to remain vigilant, to defend its rights and to insist on fairness.

We still have powerful foes who seek to weaken us and exclude us — but we also now have powerful allies who will defend us and whom we must now also support.

The lesson we have learned is that complaining and protesting, while useful in some instances, are limited in effectiveness. Organising and registering to vote and mobilising that vote, on the other hand, can produce real victories. They can break down barriers and build a community's stature. What we must do now is continue to intensify our effort on this path and build on the experience of Dearborn's Arab Americans.

What the past decade has taught us is that political respect is hard won. It requires dedicated and committed community activists and a focus on electoral politics. On this path we not only earn the recognition we deserve, but achieve the access that will advance our community's concerns as well.

Children are better off, but the world's effort must continue

By Carol Bellamy

GENEVA — Pessimists be advised: Progress towards improving the human condition exists and is gaining ground. Optimists be warned: Unless momentum is maintained, these gains may be lost.

In September 1990, world leaders from 159 countries gathered in New York for a World Summit for Children, in an effort to set ambitious Year 2000 goals for the survival, protection and development of children. The Washington Post called the meeting a "world summit long overdue."

Midway through a decade of significant progress on behalf of children, it is now clear just how overdue it was.

At the United Nations, data from nearly two-thirds of the countries that accepted the summit challenge have been under study. A report by the secretary-general confirms that real progress is being made.

The generation of the 1990s is already the largest ever. When it becomes the first to reach adulthood in the 21st century, it will be the best fed, healthiest, most literate and longest-lived in human history.

The achievements reported thus far are remarkable. On target, about 80 per cent of children under age 1 are now immunised against the major diseases of childhood, and 89 countries have already reached the Year 2000 goal of 90 per cent. Polio may soon be eradicated, never again to twist children's limbs, and measles cases are down by 90 per cent in most countries.

The use of simple oral rehydration, therapy to combat diarrhoea that causes nearly a fourth of all deaths of children under age 5 has doubled.

Despite a large increase in births, an estimated million fewer children under age 5 will die this year than in 1990.

Also remarkable are the ways these goals are being achieved. Government in more than 150 countries have drawn up national programmes of action, and citizens in 70 of these countries have created grass-roots initiatives for children at the community level, where change really touches lives.

There are, of course, disap-

pointments. Unresolved issues such as how to provide better nutrition, halt the abomination of child exploitation and attack the causes of maternal mortality remain as reminders of just how challenging our Year 2000 goals really are.

If we haven't completely reached the heights we are aiming for, there are reasons. Crushing debt burdens and civil wars, especially in Africa, have held back some countries to the point where it is clear that they will not reach the goals on schedule. In some republics of the former Soviet Union, social services have deteriorated as transition of free market economies has left the most vulnerable without accustomed safety nets.

In 1993, UNICEF estimated that \$25 billion a year in extra resources would be enough to meet the basic needs of every man, woman and child for adequate food, safe water, primary health care, family planning and basic education. That relatively small injection of money has not materialised, and international aid is at its lowest level in 20 years.

Developing countries spend more on debt servicing and armed services than on these basic needs, and little more than 6 per cent of the \$40 billion international bilateral aid actually goes to the social sector. Thus, much of the funds required could be found by real-locating existing resources.

We must be mindful that reaching the goals is not an end in itself, and that sustaining performance is the crucial end product. Progress should not be judged solely on whether every goal is technically on target, but rather on whether the process for affecting real change is succeeding, and whether the momentum can continue to grow.

In elections around the world this year, we hear many promises about making a better future for children. No new blueprints are needed. We have proof that the promises of the summit for children were not just rhetoric. The goals are what we all want and what children deserve.

International Herald Tribune

LETTERS

Iraq: A free for all

To the Editor:

THE SITUATION in Iraq is becoming more ridiculous by the minute: cultures of every hue and colour are hovering over its carcass.

Certainly Iraq is a hodge-podge of ethnicities, essentially dominated by an Arab majority culture, lately in competition with a Kurdish minority culture which has been asserting its identity for the last four decades, but whose factional leaders seem more concerned about clobbering each other than serving their people. Hence the latest complications in the north of the country.

The Iraqi society is regrettably also distinctly polarised by a Sunni-Shiite culture-cum-sectarian schism, with the situation being further complicated by tiny minorities of Turks, Assyrians, Caldees and so on.

This mosaic of ethnicity and culture was once held together by a tight frame of a credible central system of government, which started breaking at the seams after 1958. Thereafter, with every successive regime displacing the other in the usual form of a coup d'état, and introducing into the Iraqi body politic even more illiterate, half-baked, semi-educated elements, whose most prominent quality was trying to prove more efficient than the other, eventually the situation culminated in what we have today: a breakdown of the social fabric

and moral values of a once modern state and hunger and destitution shared by the majority, save a minority of mercenaries and opportunists.

Millions of Iraqis now form a sorry diaspora, searching for a new identity all over the globe to offer them shelter and dignity, which they can no longer aspire to in what was once their homeland.

The end result of this tragic musical chairs in a potentially very rich country is a state going down to the dogs and which, if sense dogs not somehow prevail, may regrettably end up with "once upon a time there was a country called Iraq," refrain.

The latest in the ridiculous free for all is that a small minority of Kurds, who live in and around the city of Kirkuk and who are no worse-off than the majority of Iraqis, have been seeking federal status (with their eyes probably on the oil wells of Kirkuk), which may end-up named mini-Turkmenistan; obviously pepped-up by their Turkish mentors who, in blatant contradiction of themselves interfere in the internal affairs of Iraq but objected vehemently when Qadhafi made a statement concerning the Turkish Kurds. The Americans also seem to be involved in this disruptive exercise.

Someone should try to do something to stop this tragic charade of nation-busting.

Omar Abbass,
Amman.

Illegal omission

To the Editor:

LIKE ALL the people in our area who crave peace, I watch the nightly news and read the newspapers for progress in the peace process. I completely agree with Palestine National Authority (PNA) that, in order to achieve peace, the settlers must be removed, especially from Hebron. In this regard, however, one glaring omission constantly surprises me.

In most discussions of the Hebron problem no mention is made (at least publicly) of the fact that this Jewish settlement (like all the others) is illegal. It began as a criminal trespass by a group of American Jewish "tourists" who checked into a Hebron hotel and were accepted as temporary guests, in good faith, by the Arab proprietors. When they refused to leave, instead of being handcuffed and sent to jail for trial on

charges of criminal trespass, or even being deported, they came under the protection of the Israeli army, the rightful owners of the hotel evicted.

In the ensuing years, they have expanded their illegal enclave from which they make periodic forays to the local mosque for massacres, and have displaced the shopkeepers in this important market centre of the West Bank to which all the local farmers bring their produce for sale.

My ancestors lost their land years ago in Ireland. If I were to travel to their original town, check into a hotel, refuse to leave, and regularly murder my neighbours, I would expect to be tried for criminal trespass and murder.

By what collective insanity has the world come to view the Jewish settlers in Hebron as somehow privileged or protected by divine sanction?

A. Clare Brandabur,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

IT OCCURRED TO ME

Note to the notary

By Ali Kassay

How can you tell whether a copy is identical to the original or not? Most people, in their ignorance, would suggest that you compare the two versions. This is where they would be making their blunder, because nothing could be further from the truth.

Curiously enough, it is not only private citizens who make this mistake, but also many official bodies in many countries. They would accept the notion that a photocopy is a faithful replica of a document merely because it bears the stamp and signature of a notary. This official would simply scrutinise the two documents and, should he find no disparities, he would attest to this. His stamp and signature would signify that he stakes his professional integrity on the fact that the two documents are comparable. Curiously enough, such a testimony seems to satisfy official bodies abroad.

We in Jordan know better, or so discovered a business-man friend of mine who was foolish enough to contemplate a joint venture with a foreign counterpart, for which purpose he needed to send his lawyer abroad notarised copies of the registration papers of his company and of his certificate of identity. This is where the fun started.

The Jordanian notary informed our friend that he can only authenticate private deeds and contracts. Copies of official documents intended for use abroad have to be authenticated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. So, armed with the originals and the photocopies, the man made his way to the ministry, only to discover that this establishment lacks the authority to make the complex judgement requested. The passport, he learnt is issued by the Civil Status Department, which is the sole agency empowered to compare it to copies made thereof. As for the registration papers of a company, they are the domain of the Ministry of Industry of Trade, and only they can judge whether their licences have been faithfully reproduced. Their scrutiny, clearly, would succeed in exposing deception that the untrained eye would miss. So well trained are they at this task that the officials responsible at these departments did no more than cast a glance in the general direction of the copies before they produced the rubber stamp and testified that they were in every way identical to the originals.

Not that the story ended there. You see, the only body empowered to address a foreign agency directly is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and none other than its stamp bears any validity beyond our national borders. So, our friend discovered, he had to trudge a second time to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to have it certify that the stamps and signatures of its sister ministries are actually authentic.

This merry-go-round, which is typical of our bureaucracy, took up two days and endless frustration. Need we wonder what effect it would have on a potential investor who has a few millions under his belt, a project in his mind, and over a hundred countries other than Jordan competing to make his life easy in order to attract his investment?

U.N. agencies alarmed over shortages in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — U.N. Aid agencies have expressed alarm at the lack of food, medicine and clean water in Iraq, saying only four per cent of the funds they asked for had been donated by the international community.

Carol Bellamy, the director of the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) said 4,500 children under five years of age were dying each month from hunger and disease and some "modest financing" at minimum was needed.

UNICEF officials later clarified that this figure was given by the Iraqi government but nevertheless was an indication of the crisis.

Of the \$39.9 million requested in a September appeal only \$1.6 million was received, from the Netherlands and from France. Yasushi Akashi, the undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs, told a news conference.

And according to Catherine Bertini, director of the U.N. World Food Programme, "the humanitarian situation throughout Iraq is dismal, and with the onset of winter, will become critical for tens of thousands of women children and other Iraqis who already are living well below the poverty level."

Mr. Akashi said that one reason for the paucity of funds was the expectation that the oil-for-food plan would be going into effect shortly.

This arrangement, still to be implemented, allows Iraq to sell \$2 billion

worth of oil to purchase food, medicine and other necessities in scarce supply since U.N. sanctions were imposed in August 1990.

Humanitarian goods are exempted from the sanctions but Iraq has said that the impact of sanctions on its infrastructure has added to the disastrous situation.

The latest delay came after Iraq insisted on curbing the freedom of movement for U.N. staff, limiting their numbers and choosing local personnel to work with the United Nations. Both Ms. Bertini and Ms. Bellamy said their staffs so far had encountered no difficulties.

But Mr. Akashi said Iraq's U.N. envoy, Nizar Hamdoun, told him that these issues could be resolved if the Security Council's Sanctions Committee would approve a new oil pricing formula under which various types of petroleum would be sold.

Iraq on Thursday submitted a new formula. Its previous one in August was approved by all committee members except the United States, which gave no reason for its delay.

The new appeal for Iraq was from October to December and would be suspended or re-examined if the oil-for-food plan was implemented, Mr. Akashi said. It was to cover more than 7 million people in all parts of Iraq.

Ms. Bertini said she needed \$19 million for 2.15 million "highly vulnerable" people, including 900,000 war

widows, 180,000 malnourished children under five and 200,000 pregnant or nursing mothers. UNICEF needs \$10 million for essential medicine and food supplement for children suffering from disease and malnutrition. Holdbrook Arthur, director of the U.N. World Food Programme in Iraq, said the situation was expected to worsen soon, with food distribution due to stop altogether next month in the south and centre of the country because stocks were depleted.

"We are running down on supplies which take care of a little more than 2 million people in all of Iraq," Mr. Arthur told the Associated Press in Baghdad. "The situation is critical and it will be worse if nobody intervenes," he said.

"The situation is critical and it will be worse if nobody intervenes," he said.

He said recent fighting between Kurdish factions in northern Iraq had affected relief food distribution in the area for two weeks this month, forcing the suspension of all relief activity at one point in the province of Sulaimaniyah. Mr. Arthur said he expected the situation in the north to reach a crisis level by December although a ceasefire has been generally holding for the past week.

He gave no details, but said that only about half of relief beneficiaries in northern Iraq had received food so far in October.



PALESTINIAN RAGE: Palestinian boys hurl stones towards Israeli soldiers who are below on a bypass road used by Jewish settlers in the West Bank following the beating to death of a Palestinian boy by a settler (Reuters photo)

Mideast still boiling 40 years after Suez war, but roles have changed

CAIRO (AP) — It is the eve of an American presidential election. The Middle East is in more than its usual turmoil, and the United States is pushing negotiations to keep tensions from boiling into armed conflict.

It may sound like today's world, but the year was 1956. The president seeking reelection was Dwight Eisenhower. And the turmoil that erupted on Oct. 29 was the Suez war.

Forty years later, the Arab-Israeli struggle drags on. But the Middle East chessboard has been turned a few times.

In an example of how times have changed, France was Israel's ally and chief arms supplier in 1956. Today, it is urging creation of a Palestinian state and is seen by Israelis as pro-Arab. Shimon Peres, later Israel's most dovish prime minister, was then an Israeli

defence official who helped secure British and French collusion in Israel's invasion of Egypt.

The war started after Egyptian President Gamal Abdul Nasser took over the Suez canal on July 26 and set up his own company to run it. He needed the canal to help finance building the Aswan High Dam, because Britain and the U.S. had reneged on pledges of financial support.

The seizure of the canal was a blow to the old colonial powers Britain and France, who had helped build it. And the United States saw it as a threat to world shipping.

Eisenhower, running for reelection of a peace platform, feared American voters would oppose a war that smacked of colonialism. He urged diplomacy first — and he definitely wanted no invasion before election day.

During a long, hot summer of meetings, France, Israel and Britain launched a plan to thwart Abdul Nasser. Israel would invade Egypt's Sinai, and the French and British would step in under the guise of protecting the Suez Canal. In the bargain, Europe would regain control of the canal, the main sea passage to Asia.

Israel invaded on Oct. 29. The next day, Britain and France issued an ultimatum, threatening to send their own troops unless Israel and Egypt withdrew their armies to 10 miles from the canal.

There was no withdrawal, and "France" and "Britain" began bombing Egypt on Oct. 31. They invaded on Nov. 5.

The Soviet Union threatened to intervene. Eisenhower was furious. The United States pressured the British and French to

withdraw in December. The Israelis withdrew the following March.

The second of five Arab-Israeli wars ended with an Egyptian death toll estimated at between 2,000 and 3,000, Israel lost 172 soldiers, Britain 16 and France 10.

For Britain, the canal's nationalisation was a bitter blow, as its influence had already begun to wane after World War II. Prime Minister Anthony Eden did not want to "appease" Abdul Nasser, as Britain had earlier done with Adolf Hitler. His goal was to topple the Egyptian leader.

Today, Egypt's most popular movie is "Nasser '56" — about the seizing of the canal — in which headlines from British dailies flash across the screen calling Abdul Nasser "Hitler on the Nile."

King stresses importance to EU role in peace process

(Continued from page 1)

Replying a question on the possibilities of war in the region, the King said that no one wished to see another war in the Middle East.

"Everybody should fight those extremists who destroyed the peace march," the King said. "I agree that we are facing a difficult moment but that does not cause us to despair. I believe the cause of peace is a worthy one — peace is in the interest of the region's people."

On U.S. mediator Dennis Ross' efforts to work out an Israeli-Palestinian agreement on Hebron, President Mubarak said Mr. Ross had tried to narrow the gap between the two sides but when he did not succeed the way he wished, he returned to the U.S.

The King was received at and seen off from Sharm Al Sheikh by President Mubarak, Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Jazouiri and other senior officials.

Upon return home, the King was received by Royal family members. Upper House Speaker Ahmad Lawzi and Lower House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Sour and high-ranking officials.

The King was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Hamzeh, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and Royal

Court Chief Awn Khasawneh. Later on Tuesday, Mr. Kabariti chaired a regular Cabinet session and briefed the council on the King's talks with President Mubarak. The Council of Ministers voiced satisfaction for the outcome of the visit, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Minister of Information Marwan Muasher told reporters after the session that the talks between the King and President Mubarak centred on the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations and the outcome of the recent visit by French President Jacques Chirac to the region.

Dr. Muasher said Jordanian-Egyptian coordination was excellent and the two sides had identical views over issues of common concern.

Dr. Muasher said that the government had not fixed a date for a visit to Jordan by Israeli President Ezer Weizman but contacts to arrange such a visit were continuing.

He added that the Cabinet approved a draft companies law which will be referred to Parliament soon.

Dr. Muasher said that the government was in the process of forming a delegation to the Middle East and North Africa economic summit to be held in Cairo.

Earlier Tuesday, the Egyptian

president drove King Hussein from Sharm Al Sheikh airport and the two leaders chatted with tourists at a hotel in the Sinai resort before opening their summit.

The two leaders decided to hold the meeting, their first since an Arab summit in Cairo in June, during a telephone conversation on Monday.

Their summit followed Mr. Ross' decision Monday to return home following a three-week effort to forge an agreement between Israelis and Palestinians on Israel's long-delayed withdrawal from Hebron.

Mr. Mubarak declined to attend an emergency summit organised by U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington on early October after unprecedented clashes between Israelis and Palestinians left over 80 people dead.

King Hussein said during the Sharm Al Sheikh press conference that at the Washington summit he had praised Mr. Mubarak's decision to stay away.

Mr. Mubarak and the King have been kept informed by the Palestinians of developments in their negotiations with Israel.

Prime Minister Kabariti and his Egyptian counterpart Jazouiri held a round of separate talks at Sharm Al Sheikh. Meanwhile in Cairo, a state-

ment issued by Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid welcomed the appointment of an EU envoy to the peace process.

"This appointment at this time is a reflection of the EU's interest in establishing a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region," the statement said.

"It shows a sincere desire to work with all the parties concerned, internationally and regionally, to advance the peace process."

Mr. Abdul Meguid said Mr. Moratinos had the league's support "in his efforts to make the peace process succeed on the basis of the U.N. resolutions and the principle of (Israel) trading land-for-peace."

He added that the special envoy "will be received with great satisfaction in all the Arab countries."

The league's assistant secretary general, Said Kamal, told journalists that "we want Europe to supplement the roles of the United States and Russia, not substitute for them."

Washington and Moscow have co-sponsored the peace process since its inception in 1991. However, Europe is the largest financial contributor to the Palestinians.

Czech leader to visit Jordan in April; Czechs want boosted economic ties

(Continued from page 1)

Vladimir Dlouhy, with whom Prince Hassan met separately yesterday, also expressed their country's interest in promoting economic trade ties with Jordan. Currently the Kingdom's imports from the Czech republic stand at around only \$3.50 million, while Jordan exports less than \$1.0 million worth of goods, mainly pharmaceuticals, to the Republic.

The minister of state for foreign affairs, Khaled

Madadha, yesterday signed a cultural, educational and youth agreement with his Czech counterpart. The minister of culture, on whose behalf Mr. Madadha signed, was unable to come to Prague for the ceremony due to other travel plans he was making. The accord signed is in effect in implementation of an agreement signed between Jordan and the former Czechoslovakia in 1978, stipulating exchange of scholarships, youth activities and educational programmes.

Negotiators at work despite absence of Arafat and Ross

(Continued from page 1)

Monday after the two sides failed to reach agreement before Mr. Arafat left on a European tour.

Dennis Ross, President Clinton's special Mideast envoy, returned to Washington early Tuesday, U.S. embassy spokesman Richard Scorza said.

But talks resumed Tuesday afternoon in Tel Aviv, with Palestinian top negotiator Saeb Erekat and Jibril Rajoub, the Palestinian security chief in the West Bank, there for the Palestinian side, Palestinian sources said.

Israeli government spokesman Moshe Fogel confirmed that the talks were underway "in the security area."

"From our point of view, we can continue discussing the security aspects and trying to pinpoint where we can go forward," he said.

Earlier Tuesday, Israel and the Palestinians traded accusations over who was responsible for the failure to reach agreement.

"At the moment the one who is delaying its completion is the Palestinian side," said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu. Other Israeli officials criticised Mr. Arafat for leaving for Europe before an agreement was reached.

Mr. Arafat, speaking to reporters in Norway on Monday night, rejected the suggestion that he had dodged agreement. "It is the Israelis who have escaped by not implementing accurately and honestly what has been agreed upon and what has been signed," he said.

Israel's previous government signed an agreement with the Palestinians to withdraw from Palestinian areas of Hebron.

But Mr. Netanyahu, who took office in June, has insisted that the agreement be modified to improve security for the settlers.

The Palestinian Information Ministry issued a statement Tuesday said that the Netanyahu government "does not have any intention of implementing the agreement," knowing that the Palestinians will not agree to renegotiate the existing agreements.

The Clinton administration insisted that the Hebron talks had not broken down and predicted an accord would be reached within a month.

Officials said Mr. Ross would go back to the region after Mr. Arafat's return (see page 2).

Clashes erupt after funeral

(Continued from page 1)

run away.

But other children who were with Shusha said Kurman raced into the village after hearing that stones had been thrown at Israeli cars in the area and attacked Shusha, kicking and hitting him on the head with the butt of his gun.

A Jerusalem court on Tuesday ordered Kurman held until Friday while police pursue their investigation.

Several hundred people attended Shusha's funeral, a double tragedy for the Shusha family since his baby sister suffers from a congenital genetic defect and could only be saved by a bone marrow transplant from the dead boy, his parents said.

An autopsy showed that Shusha died from a blow to the left side of the head. Israeli police spokesman Boaz Goldberg said it was not clear from the autopsy whether the boy was beaten or fell.

In Tuesday's funeral procession, more than 2,000 Palestinians walked behind

a stretcher that carried Shusha's body, wrapped in a blanket. "Destroy Beita," the crowd chanted. Women watching from balconies cried and ululated as the procession snaked through the village.

Residents from the nearby Israeli town of Zur Hadassa sent a message of condolence over "the tragic incident" to both the Shusha family and entire village of Husan, residents said.

The message will be published Wednesday in the Palestinian press, they said.

Tuesday's clash, the second at Husan in two days, underscored how volatile the situation is in the West Bank and Gaza Strip following the latest crisis in Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

Paying a condolence visit to the Shusha family, Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo said: "We are saying clearly that there will not be a successful peace process while murderers are terrorising our people without restraint. The solution is to disarm the settlers."

Israel flexes muscles on Golan

(Continued from page 1)

bracing itself for war Tuesday and warned Arabs it is time to consider options other than the peace process.

"The Israeli government is preparing the region for a new war as an alternative to peace and is beating the drums of war," said an editorial in Al Baath, owned by the ruling party of President Hafez Al Assad.

"The Arabs have submitted for peace everything which is demanded from them," said the newspaper. "But now, it is high time for them to deal with Israel in the only style it can understand and to look for new alternatives."

The newspaper said Arabs must move quickly to face the

current circumstances and to protect their interests and rights.

The paper's comment came in response to an Israeli newspaper report Sunday that the Israeli army is asking for 3.5 billion shekels (\$1.1 billion) to prepare for a limited war. The Haaretz newspaper said that because of recent years' progress towards peace with the Arabs, the Israeli army's logistical preparedness has suffered. "For the Israelis, the peace process is actually over," said Al Baath. "Therefore, Israel is submitting a new alternative which embodies its doctrine, helps it to reshuffle cards in the region and take matters back to the pre-Madrid conference stage."

Arab bourses blamed for capital flight

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab stock markets have remained among the weakest bourses in the world and this has scared off regional investors and contributed to a steady capital flight, experts have said.

Although several Arab countries have sought to develop their bourses within overall economic reforms, their markets still lack an adequate infrastructure and their capital is less than one third of Taiwan's market capitalisation.

"We can not consider the stock markets in the Arab World as effective instruments in mobilising financial resources," said Ahmad Abdul Latif, chairman of the Arab Banking Corporation (ABC), the biggest Arab bank.

"As we see, the bourses in some Arab countries have remained undeveloped. In other members, they failed to deal with the large financial surpluses, leading to the transfer of such surpluses to abroad, mainly foreign states," he added.

Mr. Abdul Latif, writing in the UAE economic weekly Emirates Today, said the capitalisation of 17 Arab markets stood at around \$80 billion while 10 other developing nations, it totalled \$247 billion in Taiwan, \$192 billion in South Korea and \$189 billion in Brazil.

Turnover is also far lower than those markets as governments have a large ownership in traded shares and

Arabs prefer to invest in banks.

"The investment awareness is primitive among the majority of Arab citizens as they tend to keep their assets as liquidity. Activity in the Arab markets is also confined to trading of shares and bonds," Mr. Abdul Latif said.

"The Arab markets are also suffering from organisational deficiencies and the absence of specialised financial institutions, consultancy services, brokerage houses, investment firms and market-makers," he pointed out.

Despite the return of billions of dollars to the Arab region over the past few years because of economic reforms, the Arab League's 22 members still have more than \$600 billion in overseas investment, according to bankers.

The assets are concentrated in the West in stocks and development bonds, real estate and bank deposits.

Arab officials have often called for the repatriation of part of those funds to finance reforms aimed at tackling long-standing economic problems.

But investors argue the Arab market is relatively small and incentives are still insufficient. They also cite security reasons in some Arab countries.

"There is no doubt the poor performance of the stock markets in the Arab World is one of the key factors for the accumulation of

Arab funds abroad," said Zuhair Kaswani, a leading United Arab Emirates stockbroker.

"Take the stock exchanges in the Gulf countries as an example ... the number of the shares traded every day does not exceed five per cent of the total shares. This is because the governments have a high stake in most trading institutions and dealing is restricted to national investors," he indicated.

More than 2,000 companies and banks trade their shares in the Arab World but many of the exchanges have remained closed to foreign investors.

In some members, authorities have been reluctant to open floors while in others, share-dealing is virtually absent.

Mr. Abdul Latif, whose Bahraini-based bank is owned by Kuwait, the UAE and Libya, said it was time for Arab states to develop their bourses.

"The authorities should draw up clear and well-defined objectives for the stock markets to complement their reforms," he said.

"They should also introduce legislations that will spur share-dealing, prevent insider-trading, and encourage the creation of market-makers, financial services establishments and other necessary facilities. This will turn the markets into an effective financing tool."

Omani economy soars but balance of payments hit

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Higher oil prices and reforms boosted Oman's economy by more than 10 per cent in 1995 but its balance of payments was hit by a surge in imports and remittances by foreigners, an official report has showed.

In current prices, the gross domestic product (GDP) of the small Gulf oil producer surged by 10.4 per cent to 4.78 billion Omani riyals (\$12.42 billion) in 1995 from 4.33 billion riyals (\$11.25 billion), the Kuwaiti-based Arab Corporation for Investment Guarantee (ACIG) said.

The oil sector soared by 12.8 per cent while the non-oil industrial sector jumped by 14 per cent and the remaining sectors by between 5.3 and 6.5 per cent.

"The upsurge in the economy was mainly due to higher oil revenues and government policies to diversify the economy," the ACIG study said.

Oman produces about 855,000 barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil and oil exports provide more than 80 per cent of its total income.

This reliance has made its economy highly vulnerable to oil-price fluctuations. Total earnings grew by more than 10 per cent to 1.84 billion riyals (\$4.78 billion) in 1995 due to an increase in crude prices by \$1.3.

But the increase in earnings from higher oil prices

was offset by a sharp rise in imports and remittances by the large foreign community in the sultanate.

Foreigners, most of them from Asia, make up more than a third of Oman's population.

ACIG, an affiliate of the Arab League, said imports surged by an average 9.4 per cent annually during the 1991-1995 development plan, far higher than export growth. This increased pressure on the trade balance although Oman continued to record surpluses, the report added.

"On the other hand, there was an increase in capital outflow, including profit transfers by foreign companies in Oman and remittances by expatriates," it pointed out.

"Such developments during the five-year plan turned a surplus in Oman's balance of payments of about 480 million riyals (\$1.24 billion) in 1990 into a deficit of 390 million riyals (\$1.01 billion) in 1995," the report explained.

The balance of payments, the record of a country's transactions with the rest of the world, includes the current account — trade in goods and services, private and official financial transfers, and the capital account — the difference between inflows and outflows of capital.

Oman's budget has also suffered from a persistent deficit due to higher expenditures and weak oil prices over the past decade.

But officials have spoken

of plans to trim the shortfall in the next few years and wipe it out completely in 2000.

Experts said the balance of payments, a key indicator in economic performance, would remain under pressure in the next three years as Oman is being forced to import capital and technology for an ambitious gas liquefaction plant. The project will sharply boost the country's revenues when it starts exports to Japan and other Asian consumers in 2000, they said.

The LNG (liquefied natural gas) project will give a strong boost to Oman's economy and correct its balance of payments when it is operated," a Muscat-based economist said.

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The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	JPY	CHF	SEK	NOK	DKK	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.5085	0.6215	1.2542	114.00	1.3454	1515.08	1.6924	5.1070
DE Mark	0.6628	1.0000	0.4116	0.8320	75.55	0.8913	1004.00	1.1234	3.3556
GB Sterling	1.6090	0.7973	1.0000	2.0190	183.37	2.1647	2437.99	2.7244	8.2196
CH Franc	0.7973	120.18	0.4948	90.79	1.0714	1.2063	134.81	1.4067	4.0677
JP Yen	0.0088	1.3228	0.5447	1.0000	1.1795	1.328	148.39	1.6779	4.7779
CA Dollar	0.7433	1.1404	0.4659	0.9396	1.18	1.1375	1.2794	1.3850	3.8550
IT Lira	0.0007	0.9948	0.4096	0.8228	1330.67	0.8870	11.16	1.3674	3.674
NL Guilder	0.5909	89.05	0.3670	74.14	67.31	0.7946	894.96	1.11	3.0167
FR Franc	0.1958	0.2954	0.1216	24.5693	22.30	0.2634	33.13	33.1300	-

Energy		East	Previous
Brent	24.50	24.70	
W. Texas	24.60	24.70	
Bony	24.50	24.70	
Dubai	21.75	21.95	
UL GUL	225.00	226.00	

Mid-East Currencies									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	JPY	CHF	SEK	NOK	DKK	FRF
SA Riyal	0.2667	0.4026	0.16576	0.33493	30.4173				
AE Dirham	0.2724	0.41117	0.1693	0.34209	31.0675				
KW Dinar	3.3406	5.04286	2.07539	4.19463	389.952				
BH Omani	0.3770	4.0032	1.64853	3.33111	302.48				
CY Pound	2.1664	3.2684	1.3458	2.7158	246.97				

Metal Prices		Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	381.15	381.65	
Silver (oz's)	4.84	4.86	
Platinum (oz's)	381.5	382.5	
AL (3 Months)	1406	1407	
CU (3 Months)	1921	1922	
Zinc (3 Months)	1041	1042	
Lead (3 Months)	730	731	
NI (3 Months)	0	0	

Currency Deposit Rates (Bidi)									
Currency	Period	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate
USD	1M	5.18	5.18	5.28	5.53	5.46			
GBP	1M	5.62	5.76	5.85	6.01	6.17			
JPY	1M	0.39	0.34	0.38	0.40	0.47			
DEM	1M	2.88	3.00	3.06	3.00	3.18			
FRF	1M	3.30	3.31	3.42	3.50	3.50			
CHF	1M	1.62	1.75	1.79	1.87	1.90			
ITL	1M	7.89	7.62	7.46	7.27	7.16			

Energy		Unit	Price
Coffee (lb/ton)	128.5	Sput	
Cocoa (lb/ton)	1424	Sput	
Sugar (lb/ton)	322.8	Sput	
Wheat (lb/ton)	165	Sput	
Soya (lb/ton)	21.93	Sput	
Tea (lb/ton)	177	Sput	
Barley (lb/ton)	227	Sput	
Rice (lb/ton)	470	Sput	

JOD Cross Rates		Unit	Price
US Dollar	0.708	0.710	
GB Sterling	1.1399	1.1456	
DE Mark	0.4663	0.4686	
CH Franc	0.5618	0.5646	
FR Franc	0.128	0.1387	
JP Yen	0.6188	0.6219	
NL Guilder	0.4158	0.4179	
IT Lira	0.4653	0.4676	

Lebanon's Hariri rules out tax increases

BEIRUT (R)— Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri said his new government would not increase personal and corporate tax ceilings which he cut to 10 per cent each in 1994.

Mr. Hariri made the statement at a weekend mass meeting with businessmen and politicians as he began consultations on forming his third government.

Asked if the government would increase tax rates to help cover its yawning budget deficit, in which revenue is about 50 per cent of expenditure, he said he had

no intention of changing the law.

Slashing tax rates in 1994 had increased government revenue because many Lebanese had avoided paying taxes when rates were higher, Mr. Hariri said.

"Taxation was before between 38 per cent and 40 per cent but the government received little of this revenue," Mr. Hariri said.

"That is why we set taxes at 10 per cent and the government now receives more revenue than before. It has increased. Therefore, it is clear that we are not going

to change this law," he added.

Some Beirut bankers and economists argue that tax revenue provides a disproportionately low contribution to government revenue and that introduction of a value added tax at 12 per cent could solve chronic public debt and deficit problems.

Mr. Hariri made no mention of value added tax.

The prime minister reaffirmed his support for the steadily strengthening Lebanese pound, saying that anyone who tried to

speculate against the currency would lose heavily.

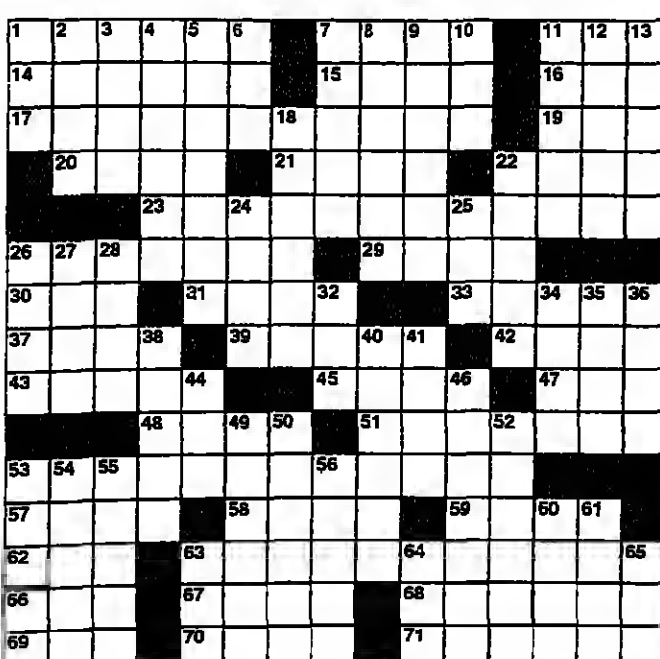
Mr. Hariri, who has backed the steady appreciation of the pound in his first four years in office, issued the warning at a weekend mass meeting with businessmen and politicians.

"Those who played against the Lebanese pound before lost millions of dollars and we know all these people. If they try to repeat this game they will lose even more," Mr. Hariri said in reply to a question.

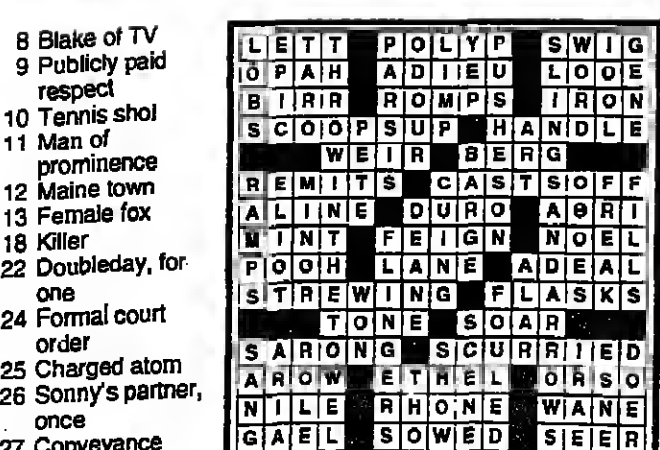
"It is forbidden to play this game because it is playing with the life of the Lebanese people and we do not permit this game, absolutely, neither by big players nor by little players," he said.

THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS
- French mathematician
 - Comedian Mort
 - Autumn mo.
 - "... as ashes" (Sterne)
 - Melville novel
 - "Exodus" hero
 - Essayist
 - Batter's space
 - Cassowary kin: var.
 - Actress Turner
 - The best
 - Roman Empire historian
 - Food factory
 - Years on end
 - Color
 - Expires
 - More recent
 - And others: abbr.
 - Rubbish
 - Throat rattle
 - Distributor part
 - Indescent gem
 - Through: pref.
 - Italia's capital
 - First
 - Circumnavigator
 - Mount Pelee output
 - Poet Teasdale
 - Conger and morby
 - Fuss
 - Famous peak
 - man
 - Miss Piggy's word
 - "... was I — saw..."
 - "... the Heart of Texas"
 - Purpose
 - Watched closely
 - "... Fideles"



- DOWN
- Moccasin
 - Court great
 - Count meal
 - Lunch
 - Referred
 - Shelter
 - Celestial system



- Wretchedness
- As busy —
- Portable dwelling: var.
- Sweetheart
- Radioactive element
- Shun
- Celtic priest
- Edges
- Comical sketch
- Letter
- Turkish chamber
- Comp. pt.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1996

By Thomas S. Pienaar, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Rid yourself of annoyances today which make you unhappy and feeling alone. Don't clear of influential persons later this evening, otherwise you will be able to gain success and valuable business knowledge.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Be with friends today who are conversational and avoid the unpredictable kind otherwise there could be difficulties in your career activities. Make headway toward a cherished wish which you have sought for sometime.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Be sure to follow through today on directives of higher-ups exactly without getting into any disagreements. Later this evening you can seek out the assistance of a knowledgeable person for a new project you are given.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Plan how to grow by adopting a new attitude today and you can gain your purposes easily. Later this evening you can meet with close friends and have a fun time together for in the days ahead you could find yourself very busy.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be sure to keep promises you have made to close friends and loved ones. Try to please your mate in the evening and you will receive affection in return. Control your temper, so there won't be any disagreements.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Listen in the ideas of a fellow associate quietly today and avoid difficulties which you have a desire not to encounter. Plan time later this evening for handling public affairs and thereby gain insight towards your success.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Try to make your surroundings today more as you wish them to be and thereby making your life more enjoyable. Be more explicit in stating your plans to fellow associates since they could have valuable suggestions.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You may find it difficult to get your ideas across to others today, however, be persistent and success will come in your direction. Later this evening will be good for you to go out on the town with your mate.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You want to have more harmony at home today, so make every effort to appreciate the feelings of your loved ones. Act wisely this evening to get good results and avoid big changes which are unexpected and not totally desired.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Know how to soothe an irate fellow associate today since a thoughtless word could start a big disagreement which you both don't want. Later this evening seek out the advice of knowledgeable people for your career activities.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Set up a better budget for yourself today so that you will have extra funds for the unexpected. Handle other practical affairs in the same manner to avoid any complications. Enjoy your home tonight with your loved ones.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You can be out with your mate at some social affair during the daytime and meet with some influential individuals. Take it easy tonight and relax with your loved ones for the days ahead could be rather hectic with career activities.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline.

Asian tigers lose their gloss as east Europe stirs

LONDON (R1) — The tiger economies of South East Asia are losing their gloss as stock markets plunge and political consensus fragments. Investors are looking further afield for the bull markets of the next decade. Boasting growth of nine or 10 per cent over the 10 years until the early 90s, the Asian markets are maturing now and are finding it hard to maintain the heady returns for which emerging market investors are hungry.

Funds are turning instead to the nascent economies of Europe and Latin America for the next investor gold rush.

"Maybe Asia has lost its gloss a little," said Nigel Rendell, global strategist at HSBC James Capel in London.

"The Asian economies will find it difficult to sustain growth rates of nine per cent," he said, comparing the economic catch-up in Korea, Singapore and Taiwan until about two years ago to the postwar recovery in Germany and Japan.

So which regions are likely to see the next growth

spurt that will provide the giant returns pension fund managers are seeking to meet the demands of the West's growing ageing population?

"We have been seeing more interest in east Europe over the last year or so," Mr. Rendell said. "People are looking at one or two of the eastern European economies that have been through the doldrums — Ukraine and Belarus — though that growth spurt will not come in the next couple of years...and maybe Russia itself, which has been through seven years of recession." David Sneddon, global trading technical analyst at Credit Lyonnais, agreed.

"People are looking for the next bull market to occur somewhere else...and east Europe is coming into fashion — there are new markets and some wonderful gains to be made," Mr. Sneddon said.

Investors are also selectively looking at the recovery story in Latin America, following Mexico's 1994 financial crisis. Venezuela's stock market for instance

has posted gains this year in dollar terms of 53 per cent.

The gloom over Asia has been fuelled by dramatic events in places like Indonesia and Thailand, which this year transformed itself into every fund manager's worst nightmare.

A glaring current account deficit, worries over inflation, sagging exports and a poor outlook for corporate earnings have piled in on top of a political crisis that culminated in the calling of snap elections for Nov. 17.

The Thai stock market has been in bear mode since February, losing 300 points in a freefall over the last two weeks alone.

Meanwhile rioters took to the streets of Jakarta in July as anxieties mounted over the succession to Indonesia's aging President Suharto, and its stock market headed steeply south.

While the jury is still out on Malaysia, Mr. Sneddon said Singapore too was definitely in the danger zone.

"It's just a matter of time before we see further steep falls in Singapore," he said, adding the stock market may test levels around 1900

within eight to 10 weeks from its present level around 2,135. "It really is just marking time."

While Taiwan has been travelling sideways and some gains may still be made in South Korea, Hong Kong remains the exception.

"It's still in favour and we're going to challenge all time highs," he said. "It has good strength and has further to go."

But if most of the tigers have lost their gloss it is by no means the end of the Asian investment story. These economies will still post growth of six to eight per cent on average — far above the 2.5 per cent of western Europe and the United States.

China remains the great hope for Asia investors. HSBC James Capel forecasts GDP growth at 11 per cent, well above the official 10 per cent forecast, and many fund managers still see rich pickings in Asia.

Arab businessmen meeting to stress role of private sector in economic development

By Ghaila Alul
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Leading Arab businessmen will early next year take part in the first Arab Business Community meeting aimed at enhancing business cooperation among Arab countries as well as discussing means of giving the private sector a pioneer role to lead economic and social development.

The meeting, which is jointly organised by Jordan Businessmen Association (JBA) and the Egyptian Businessmen Association (EBA), will create opportunities for Arab businessmen to launch investment joint ventures and build a network of relationships among them, a statement by JBA said.

The three-day meeting which will be attended by Secretary General of the Arab League Esmat Abdul Meguid, comes within the framework of the Jordanian-Egyptian joint business council established in 1985, and on the basis of the positive results of Cairo Arab Summit, the statement said.

Arab business associations and joint business councils, will discuss the role of the private sector and exchange information about its experience in their countries.

Ali Atiq, Secretary General of the Arab Thought Forum, will talk about the future of the joint Arab business in light of the Arab and international variables.

Secretary General of the Arab Economic Unity Council in Cairo Hassan Ibrahim will present a paper on the joint Arab market. A paper on the role of the Islamic Bank in developing exports and promoting investment in Arab and Islamic countries will be presented by President of the Islamic Bank Ahmad Mohammed Ali.

Director General of the Arab Monetary Fund in Abu Dhabi Jasssem Al Mana'i will talk about the programme of financing Arab trade and its role in promoting trade among Arab countries.

The needs of creating a free Arab trade zone will be the topic of a paper by Secretary General of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

(ESCWA) Hazem Biblawi.

The JBA statement said that these papers will present the role of the joint Arab economic institutions in supporting the commercial and investment cooperation among Arab countries.

It added that the meeting will stress the importance of giving joint Arab economic action priority. It said that through coordination, Arab countries will be better equipped in their efforts to solve economic problems such as unemployment, poverty and narrowing the increased gap between production and the population growth. Joint economic action will also help the Arab World to achieve economic independence from other regional economic groups.

In a press conference Tuesday, JBA Chairman Hamdi Tabba'a stressed that the first Arab Business Community meeting will not replace any other economic summit. However he added, it will come as a response to the strong need of bringing the Arab private sectors together.

will be presented during the meeting. However, participants will come up with ideas to create investment opportunities in different sectors.

No political figures will attend the conference, Mr. Tabba'a said, stressing that the meeting will focus on the role of the private sector and strengthening its participation in the economic decision making and planning process.

He added that the meeting will emphasise the need for forming a joint view among Arab businessmen about all issues related to the present and future of Arab countries. Such a view, he said, can help political decision makers.

"There is a need to take into consideration businessmen's points of view," said Mr. Tabba'a. About 300 participants will attend the meeting which will be a periodic forum hosted by the Arab capitals so that the voice of the Arab business community could be loudly raised, the statement said.

Business

No more 'official' telephones

** BEGINNING JAN. 1, 1997 all telephones classified as "official" or "work-related," including those so classified in private homes, will no longer bear such classification. Consequently, senior civil servants will have to present the phone bill for settlement to the concerned government or semi-government institution which will have to ensure that the phone calls were made in the context of official work. According to this measure, announced by the minister of post and communications, the ministries, the government departments and semi-official institutions will not settle the annual subscription to these "official" or "work-related" telephones at the homes of senior civil servants. The minister has asked all government and semi-government bodies to cover the cost of telephone services in their 1997 budgets (Al Ra'i).

CAA cuts cost of Aqaba airport project

** ACCORDING TO Jaser Ziyad, the director-general of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Jordan has been able to reduce the cost of the planned Aqaba International Airport from \$250 million to \$80 million. The airport is totally built on the Jordanian territory. Such a cost reduction will be made through benefiting of the facilities currently existing at the airport. Expansion of these facilities and additional buildings can be done on the same site, Captain Ziyad pointed out.

A specialised American consultancy firm, backed by the U.S. Agency for International Development, has conducted a feasibility study and concluded that the cost of the project would be \$250 million. A Jordanian revision of the project has cut the cost by 50 per cent, to between \$115 million and \$126 million, after the CAA requested a slight modification on the terms of reference. A third review based on setting up the huge airport on the Jordanian soil has cut the cost to \$80 million, the CAA chief said (Al Ra'i).

Egyptian bourse gets facelift to meet transaction boom

CAIRO (AFP) — The Egyptian bourse entered the computer age with French help this month amid a boom in transactions after years of manual operations.

"We have begun the implementation of a central depository system with Mistr Bank International," the chairman of the Capital Markets Authority (CMA), Abdul Hamid Ibrahim said last week.

The system launched on Oct. 1 will help speed up the processing of transactions which often takes several days and sometimes weeks, slowing down sales of shares.

The computerised system will enable the bourse to publish a daily price index as well as an index of best value shares.

The central depository is being set up with the help of the French firm Sicovam with a \$960,000 grant from France and is a key step in the development of Egypt's bourse.

Foreign investors are currently responsible for about 30 per cent of transactions on the Cairo bourse and "without a stable system of dealing in shares, no one will invest," Mr. Ibrahim said.

"We are going to adopt international regulation by which transactions are dealt with within three days and shares could be sold the day after they are purchased," he added.

The Cairo and Alexandria bourse fell into a deep sleep after the 1956 nationalisation

drive that gripped Egypt.

A 1992 law allowing the liberalisation of capital markets and the government's decision to launch a privatisation drive in the spring of 1996 helped bolster the bourse.

"In 1992 we had 17 stock-brokers, today we have 155 firms," Mr. Ibrahim said, adding that the volume of transactions from April to the end of September stood at 1.7 million transactions for a total value of 6.8 billion pounds (\$2 billion), compared to 12,000 transactions for \$560 million in 1993.

According to Mr. Ibrahim the total value of shares of public firms which went private represented 1.6 billion pounds (\$470 million) in the past six months.

"Twenty-one firms have been privatised since April. Nineteen of them have been listed on the bourse and two of them offered only part of their shares on the bourse," he said.

"Most of the time it is the majority of the capital which is sold and not only 10 per cent," he said.

But the government, nevertheless, imposes some limitations.

In strategic sectors such as the pharmaceutical industry, only 40 per cent of the capital can be privatised.

Generally the state retains 25 per cent of the capital for a shareholder of its choice to avoid having the shares fall into the hands of too many small investors.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 29/10/1996											
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRADS	VALUE TRADED	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
252,000	205,000	ARAB BANK	13.5	1.42	4	100	14025	246.75	247.00	+0.25	
1,210	1,180	KIT EAST INV. BK.	66.3	0.00	8	3250	2398	1.01	1.04	+0.03	
5,250	4,250	THE HOUSING BK.	12.8	2.88	8	7450	2760	4.60	4.62	+0.02	
1,202	1,180	JOB-GUY BANK	5.4	7.69	7	238750	21278	9.01	9.01	0.00	
4,180	3,300	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.8	0.00	20	3773	11972	3.71	3.77	+0.06	
3,400	3,000	JOR. DEV. FTH. BANK	17.3	0.00	3	750	2400	3.21	3.10	-0.11	
3,480	1,870	RETAIL-MH (SEIWA)	11.1	8.24	3	450	319	1.67	1.62	-0.05	
1,640	1,200	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	9	0.00	2	1100	1469	1.36	1.33	-0.03	
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 189.10	CHG: +0.03	51	255823	244610				
2,910	1,920	JOR. FRENCH INSTR.	5.4	10.51	3	550	1045	1.92	1.90	-0.02	
2,400	1,850	ARAB LIFE INSUR.	8.3	7.27	2	400	874	2.15	2.16	+0.01	
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 119.26	CHG: +0.13	5	950	1920				
1,900	1,490	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	11.0	7.55	6	1023	1676	1.60	1.59	-0.01	
2,800	2,020	SHIPPING LINES	10.6	7.94	6	7950	20321	2.52	2.17	-0.35	
3,050	1,980	NATL. PORTFOLIO	9.1	0.00	8	1500	1860	1.19	1.17	-0.02	
1,260	950	JORDAN INTE. TRAD.	25.9	0.00	1	4000	2950	0.65	0.64	-0.01	
1,340	950	SARKA EDUCATION	9.2	0.00	2	2750	3108	1.15	1.11	-0.04	
2,430	1,700	UNITED CO.	8.0	0.00	3	870	870	1.75	1.75	0.00	
1,200	1,020	UNION LAND DEV.	5	0.00	3	1200	1063	0.88	0.87	-0.01	
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 111.32	CHG: -0.11	27	19023	31117				
3,770	3,060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	19.1	2.99	23	8823	29448	3.36	3.11	-0.25	
5,960	4,780	ARAB POTASH CO.	17.1	3.52	3	2500	14125	5.65	5.64	-0.01	
10,550	8,720	JOR. PETROLEUM INFR.	9.3	8.69	13	3017	2777	9.23	9.11	-0.12	
1,590	1,150	MOULDER INDUSTRIES	53.7	0.00	1	350	424	1.26	1.23	-0.03	
3,750	1,650	INDUSTRIAL CORP. AGR.	28.9	0.00	1	125	269	2.10	2.15	+0.05	
4,870	3,200	ARAB FERTIL. IND.	18.2	6.04	14	3327	7688	4.05	3.81	-0.24	
8,000	4,750	DAR AL-DIAVA DEV. INV.	12.3	4.44	2	200	900	4.55	4.50	-0.05	
5,800	3,130	ARAB ALUM. IND.	8.7	8.60	42	74	258	3.50	3.49	-0.01	
1,950	1,450	*TITANIC & POLYMER	9	0.00	4	47800	28513	0.61	0.59	-0.02	
2,890	2,580	GENERAL INVESTMENT	6.6	5.45	2	3993	10981	2.75	2.75	0.00	
1,500	1,060	ARAB PAPER COV. TTD.	7.8	9.01	10	5550	6408	1.16	1.15	-0.01	
3,280	1,980	UNION. MACH. IND.	8.7	10.17	3	900	1510	1.68	1.67	-0.01	
1,870	1,620	ENTERED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	19	12100	12117	1.02	0.99	-0.03	
1,150	830	JOR. WOODWORK. TIND.	9	0.00	2	500	625	0.86	0.87	+0.01	
2,180	1,480	UNION. MACH. IND.	4.6	13.25	6	1950	3227	1.60	1.61	+0.01	
2,100	1,140	JOR. IND. RESOURCES	17.6	0.00	44	25650	35713	1.38	1.43	+0.05	
1,580	890	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	24.2	0.00	14	6550	5840	0.91	0.91	0.00	
2,460	1,750	EE - EGY READY WEAR	9	0.00	3	8650	8753	1.66	1.65	-0.01	
1,490	1,080	INTL. TORACOR	25.5	0.00	17	8650	9366	1.69	1.67	-0.02	
2,040	1,000	UNION CH. & VEG.	24.6	0.00	2	350	349	1.00	1.00	0.00	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 111.24	CHG: -0.23	28	134655	200348				
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 148.36	CHG: -0.08	311	410451	577994				
* New 12 months low N : Listed during the past 12 months P : P/E ratio is 100 or more G : Negative P/E E : Earning is zero or N/A for the most recent year											

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

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Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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SNIPPOO
TENCIE

I have this special today only \$5.95 I'll take three

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

Print answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: SUITE NOISY BEETLE MORBID
Answer: How the young banker viewed the beach scene - WITH INTEREST

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NBA season starts Friday

Magic try to adjust after losing Shaq

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Shaquille O'Neal's final magic trick with Orlando was a vanishing act, followed by a \$120 million reappearance as a member of the Los Angeles Lakers.

And as National Basketball Association rivals in the Eastern Conference breathe a sigh of relief, Orlando must find a way to win with newcomer Felton Spencer trying to fill the void left by dominating centre O'Neal.

"We know everyone is laughing about Felton replacing Shaq," Orlando guard Penny Hardaway said. "We know nobody thinks we can win 50 games or go far in the playoffs. But we will prove everybody wrong. People are underestimating us. We still have the chemistry to go a long way if I play well."

The Magic will struggle to remain with Indiana and New York as the top eastern rivals for Chicago, which won a record 72 games last season and a fourth NBA title in six years behind stars Michael Jordan and Dennis Rodman.

"The team that won 72 games should still be the favourite," Cleveland coach Mike Fratello said.

The big change comes in Orlando, where O'Neal averaged 26 points and 12 rebounds, Spencer had only 3.6 points and 4.2 rebounds as a Utah reserve. But unlike O'Neal, he is a good free throw shooter.

Fans like that. "I have never gotten a standing ovation just for making a free throw before," Spencer said after a home exhibition game.

Charles Barkley compared the loss of O'Neal to Milwaukee's 1975 trade of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to the Lakers. The Bucks, who won their only crown with him in 1971, were never the same. The Lakers went on to win five NBA titles.

"The Magic are one (knee injury) away from being out of the playoffs," Barkley said of a club that went 60-22 last season and

reached the NBA finals the previous year.

"It's going to be a big adjustment for Orlando," Indiana's Reggie Miller said. "Penny is ready to accept a leadership role. I don't see too big a dropoff. When Shaq was injured last year, they were still one of the elite teams in the league."

O'Neal was out for 28 games and Orlando won 20 of them as Hardaway showed he can be a dominating scorer.

"Penny has been almost 100 unselfish," Orlando coach Brian Hill said. "He has to take on a more assertive role. We have to look for him to score more. We will be a quality team. We're just going to be a different type of team."

Indiana kept Olympian Miller and their other free agents but will lose Dutch centre Rik Smits in the early season to surgery on both feet.

"We need to get Rik back healthy in the near future, but I like what I have seen," Indiana coach Larry Brown said. "We have a chance to improve. Orlando will be good. They won't be the power they were before. Chicago is head and shoulders above everybody. Compared to Chicago, we all fall short."

New York took Larry Johnson from Charlotte and Allan Houston from Detroit in a free agent buying spree to bring Patrick Ewing the supporting cast he needs to win a title.

"I want to be part of a great team," Ewing said. "I am tired of seeing Michael Jordan walk off with all the titles for himself."

Johnson and Houston will take some of the scoring load from Ewing, but the test will be building team chemistry among newcomers and veterans such as John Starks, now relegated to the bench.

Washington is expected to be improved with Chris Webber healthy after shoulder surgery. Juwan Howard back after nearly leaving for



Orlando's Penny Hardaway (right) will be carrying a bigger burden in the absence of team star Shaquille O'Neal who was traded to the L.A. Lakers (file photo)

Miami and Rod Strickland signed as a free agent to run the backcourt. Miami was undone when Howard stayed in Washington, but the heat have Alonzo

Mourning, Dan Majerle and Tim Hardaway. Toronto, Milwaukee, Boston, New Jersey and Philadelphia remain weaklings of the east. New

Jersey, guided by center Shawn Bradley and new coach John Calipari, face Orlando next week for two regular-season games in Japan.

Rockets relaunch with Barkley boost

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Newcomer Charles Barkley has the Houston Rockets ready to blast off again, fuelling the relaunch of a club that crash-landed last season after back-to-back championships.

Together with Hakeem Olajuwon and Clyde Drexler, Barkley should make Houston a National Basketball Association force in a Western Conference that has 1996 runner-up Seattle and the Shaquille O'Neal-led Los Angeles Lakers.

"It's up to Hakeem and Clyde and myself to win a championship."

Barkley said: "None of us could carry a team every night. Because we have three players of our ability, we can divide it up every night."

"We will have to make some sacrifices and you can't let ego get involved. Some nights I will get 30. Some I will only get 15. It will be a little like that for all three of us. But as long as we win, that's all that matters."

They must win soon. Barkley and Olajuwon are 33. Drexler is 34.

"The future is now," Olajuwon said. "We have to make our move now with the best team we can put together. Nothing less than a championship is acceptable. We have to get back where we were."

The Rockets were dethroned by Seattle in the second playoff round and chose to revamp the team by dealing four players, including veterans Sam Cassell and Robert Horry, to Phoenix for two-time Olympic champion Barkley.

"Charles will be great in Houston," Phoenix coach Cotton Fitzsimmons said. "For his size, he might be as great a player as ever played the game. He doesn't want to carry the load. With Hakeem and Clyde he won't have to."

Barkley wants to match Drexler, who ended his long wait for an NBA crown

after joining the Rockets from Portland.

"The ideal scenario would be to win this thing, retire and live happily ever after," Barkley said. "If we don't go deep in the playoffs, it will be irrelevant."

This is the first time since 1993 Houston opens without an NBA crown. They have yet to prove they can win one when Michael Jordan is at his best.

Houston has suffered early setbacks. Kevin Willis has been slowed by an injury and long-range shooter Brent Price is out with a broken hand.

"I like it better when there is some negativity. It gives us some fuel," Houston coach Rudy Tomjanovich said. "We're going to have to share a little bit more now. I don't think you will see too much of a change in Charles."

Barkley has already traded shoves with New York's Charles Oakley in an exhibition game and thrown down a verbal challenge to the Lakers.

The Lakers' Cedric Ceballos, who walked out on his club last season when Magic Johnson returned at mid-season, said his club has good young talent while Houston has good old talent.

Barkley's reply: "He was right. We are old. So were the Bulls and they won 70 games. At least we won't take a spring break in the middle of the season."

O'Neal makes the Lakers an instant contender. Coach Del Harris plans to change the former Orlando star's style a bit, though.

"We would like him to be a better defensive player, top three in rebounds and blocked shots, top 10 and steals, and because he can throw the ball, more assists and a better assist to turnover ratio," Harris said.

Seattle won the west last year and pushed Chicago in the finals.

The Supersonics will be led by Shawn Kemp, Germany's Detlef Schrempf

and Dream Team guard Gary Payton.

"Gary Payton has a great attitude. The Dream Team situation seems to have given Gary a confidence and leadership I haven't seen him have in the past," Seattle coach George Karl said. "You will see Det have an all-star season."

Karl has emphasized improved ball-handling and rebounding.

"If we do that, we will be a better team," he said. "That might not mean 60 wins. The west has gotten better. L.A. will be tough."

Barkley is a class player who wants a title playing with people in Houston who know what it takes to win one. Utah and San Antonio are always championship-caliber.

San Antonio must open without injured David Robinson and Chuck Person, while Utah relies upon Dream Teamers Karl Malone, 33, and John Stockton, 34.

"The big question is how well our older players hold together," Utah coach Jerry Sloan said. "I am amazed they have shown the competitiveness they have thus far. They still have the enthusiasm to compete."

Sacramento, Portland, Phoenix and Golden State are the best of the rest in the west.

The Los Angeles Clippers and Dallas are struggling to find centres while Denver must adjust to losing their big man in the middle Zaire's Dikembe Mutombo to Atlanta.

Lowly Minnesota hope to revive with an international crew that include Australia's Shane Heal and Yugoslavia's Stojko Vrankovic, both Olympians. NBA doom

Vancouver added depth but still lacks the talent to rise far.

Seles to defend Sydney title unless shoulder operation intervenes

SYDNEY (AFP) — Monica Seles will defend her Sydney international title in January if she is not forced to have an operation on a shoulder injury before then.

Seles, a four-time Australian Open champion who shares the top ranking with Steffi Graf, has been having shoulder treatment for most of the year.

Graf will start her Australian Open preparations in the Hopman Cup in Perth over the new year period.

She said recently she faced a tough decision and did not want to miss several months of competition. "It's a long re-hab, that's for sure. I don't want to think about that because maybe there's a chance of avoiding it," Seles said.

The Sydney International from January 5-11 is the week before the year's opening Grand Slam tournament and organisers are expecting defending men's champion Todd Martin and the 1996 runner-up Goran Ivanisevic to play.

The women's winner will earn 94,900 dollars (U.S. \$75,000), significantly



Monica Seles

more than the 54,900 dollars (U.S. \$43,400) for the men's winner in a tournament which offers 845,000 dollars (U.S. \$667,550) in total prizemoney.

For the first time the

Sydney men's and women's singles finals will be held on a Saturday (January 11), allowing the finalists an extra day before the Australian open in Melbourne.

Ma's army resume winning form

BEIJING (AFP) — Runners from the Ma Junren camp gave the coach a huge boost by winning the men's and women's races in the Dalian marathon.

Cao Ren took the men's race in 2hr 15min and 55sec. Song Mingfei won the women's race in 2:32.42.

Ma has been looking for a boost since his star runner Wang Junxia split with him last year and then he failed to get any runners to the Atlanta Olympics.

He recently resumed working with his athletes at his training camp near Dalian after a long period of illness.

Jewell may sue media in Olympic bombing

ATLANTA (R) — Former Olympic bombing suspect Richard Jewell said Monday he felt like a "hunted animal" as the FBI and news media watched his every move, and his lawyers said they planned to file suits against the media.

Jewell, 33, a one-time Olympic security guard, brushing tears from his eyes and with his voice breaking, accused the news media and the FBI of ruining his reputation and destroying his life during "88 days of hell."

Jewell went from being a hero to the case's only named suspect in three days after the July 27 blast at centennial Olympic park that claimed two lives and injured more than 100.

He was finally cleared of suspicion on Saturday when the Justice Department issued a letter saying he was no longer a target of the FBI bomb investigation.

But the letter, a rare public admission by federal prosecutors, was not enough to clear his name, Jewell said. "I felt like a hunted animal, followed constantly, waiting to be killed," he said in a 10-minute speech to journalists.



Richard Jewell, the security guard who first alerted police about a bomb in Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park before it detonated, is surrounded by photographers as he returns to his home outside Atlanta after being questioned by authorities in this July 30 file photo. Jewell was cleared as a suspect in the Olympic bombing October 26 (Reuters photo)

Lawyers for Jewell told reporters lawsuits would be filed against NBC-TV, NBC anchor Tom Brokaw and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution for linking Jewell to the bombing and defaming his character.

The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG), the organising group in charge of the

event, was also a target of the lawyer's ire. Wood said he intended to investigate a "series of coincidences and facts" involving the timing of a news leak that implicated his client.

The news that Jewell had been named a suspect in the investigation appeared in an issue of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution on the same

day that centennial Olympic park reopened following the blast.

"I am telling you that I intend to look into whether they leaked this information," Wood said, referring to ACOG.

The Olympics bombing made Jewell and his mother Barbara virtual prisoners in their home for three months. Whenever he left for any reason, including going to a baseball game, FBI agents and news media trailed his every move.

Early on July 27, Jewell was working as a private security guard near centennial Olympic park when he spotted a suspicious green knapsack at a crowded outdoor concert. He alerted police and helped clear runners from the area before a pipe bomb in the pack detonated.

Jewell initially was hailed as a hero for his actions. But on July 30 an article in the Journal-Constitution named him as a focus of the investigation. Earlier Monday, the U.S. Attorney's office released a copy of the FBI affidavit that cited circumstantial evidence as pointing to Jewell as a suspect early in the investigation.

TODAY AT	CINEMA TEL:634144 PHILADELPHIA Philadelphia 1 Tom Cruise ... in MISSION IMPOSSIBLE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 Philadelphia 2 SABRINA Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	CINEMA TEL:699238 PLAZA Ahmad Zaki & Yusra....in WHIMS (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CINEMA TEL:677420 CONCORD CONCORD "1" MORTAL COMBAT Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD "2" NASER 56 Shows: 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:45	Amman Theatre & Cinema TEL: 618274 - 618275 Today presents Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in the play entitled Five-Star Government Starring comedians: Mahmoud Saimah & Hussein Tubishat Play starts 8:30 p.m.	Nabil & Hisham's Theatre TEL: 625155 PRESENTS THE SATIRICAL COMEDY Arab Human Rights At 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call 625155 - 640155
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Taleban declare jihad war on Uzbek leader; civilians flee fighting

KABUL (Agencies) — The Islamic Taleban militia who seized Kabul a month ago declared a holy war Tuesday against a powerful northern warlord, as hundreds of people fled fighting which raged north of the capital.

The move came as a two-day regional conference on restoring peace in Afghanistan opened in Tehran gathering low-level regional representatives but lacking any of the major players in the grinding conflict.

Acting Taleban Information and Culture Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi said in Kabul that a holy war had been declared on the ex-communist general turned warlord, Abdul Rashid Dostum.

"In the past we had other evil forces between our two sides but now we are facing Dostum who has launched an offensive against the Islamic state of Afghanistan so jihad is now in progress against him," he said. "I won't say now whether Dostum is a Muslim or an infidel, but it is legal to fight a jihad against him." Mr. Muttaqi told journalists here in a sharp departure from the Taleban's earlier stance on Gen. Dostum.

"The ulama (religious scholars) have already given their verdict stating that it is an obligation to fight a jihad against Dostum and Rabbani," he added.

He said Gen. Dostum, ex-President Burhanuddin Rabbani, his top military commander Ahmad Shah Masood and other factional leaders must be fought as they were seditious forces pitted against the Taleban government.

"Anybody who stands against the Islamic state will have a jihad declared against them," he said.

The comments contrasted with Taleban's earlier concili-

atory stance towards Gen. Dostum, who controls the north of war-torn Afghanistan, and who has joined Mr. Rabbani's ousted government in battle against the Taleban who toppled it on Sept. 27.

On Sunday, Mr. Muttaqi had said the Taleban was still seeking a peaceful resolution of the differences between the country's two most powerful factions.

Mr. Muttaqi also warned that a major popular uprising against Gen. Dostum was brewing in his northern fiefdom and that he would soon be toppled from power and replaced by Taleban rule.

The religious militia, which sprang up two years ago, has already seized control of two-thirds of the country and has vowed to impose its ultra-strict version of Islamic law over Afghanistan's territory.

As fighting raged at frontlines north of Kabul between Taleban and Mr. Masood's forces, hundreds of people took to the roads in search of safety.

People left villages behind the Taleban-controlled Hussein Kot frontlines, 20 kilometres north of the Afghan capital, witnesses said.

"The fighting was bad last night but we are worried that things will get worse, so we left," said one man walking with his family to Kabul.

One rocket hit a house in the village of Kalakan, 30 kilometres north of Kabul, killing two men, a woman and a young girl from the same family. Another visitor to the village, a man, was also killed.

Many civilians were also seen moving in the opposite direction, from Kabul back to villages in the Hossain Kot area.

In Tehran, a conference aimed at discussing peace in the war-torn country got under

way, but without key players Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the Afghan factions.

Representatives from Russia, Central Asian republics, Turkey, China, India, the United Nations, the European Union and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference were attending the two-day meeting.

Saudi Arabia and Pakistan were invited but did not attend delegates. Afghan groups also did not send any representatives.

The two-day conference seeks to develop proposals to help the people of Afghanistan end the conflict, Iran's foreign minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, said in opening remarks.

"It is not our job to decide the fate of Afghanistan. The friends of Afghanistan and those who worry about the Afghan people are gathered here today to come up with friendly advice and recommendations," he said.

Recommendations were expected on Wednesday.

Mr. Velayati also reiterated Iran's support for the Rabbani government. "We recognise the Rabbani government as the legitimate government of Afghanistan, since Rabbani envoys represent Afghanistan in the United Nations and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference," Mr. Velayati said.

Iran has been openly critical of the Taleban and has accused the militia of giving Islam a bad name.

Iran also claims that the Taleban are supported by Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and the United States.



A soldier loyal to ousted military commander Ahmad Shah Masood guards a group of about 60 radical Taleban at a prisoner of war camp in Borak village in Afghanistan's Panjsher Valley. There are some 25 Pakistanis amongst them who allegedly fought on the Taleban side against Masood troops and were captured at the Salang Highway frontline recently (Reuters photo)

Attackers massacre 13 in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AFP) — About 15 heavily armed men massacred at least 13 civilians and wounded more than 17 others in south Mogadishu Tuesday when they opened up indiscriminately with machineguns and grenades, witnesses said.

The young attackers arrived in a pick-up truck at the Bar Ubah junction in the south of the divided capital, got out, and opened up all round them for 10 minutes with rocket-propelled grenades, hand grenades, rifle-fired grenades and heavy and light machineguns, the witnesses said.

Eight men and one woman were killed immediately, and four others died of their wounds a few minutes later.

Israel to build 8,200 more houses in W. Bank — report

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli authorities will soon begin building 8,200 new houses for ultra-orthodox Jews in the West Bank, the Yediot Aharonot newspaper reported Tuesday.

Quoting defence ministry officials, the newspaper said government approval had been given for construction of 4,000 housing units in the existing settlement of Kyriat Sefer, 3,500 in Matatya and 700 in or Sameah.

The towns are part of the Modiin block of settlements located just inside the western limit of the West Bank about half-way between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

It was not immediately clear if the construction plans reported by Yediot included some 3,000 housing units which the defence ministry has already confirmed approving for the Kyriat Sefer and Matatya settlements.

A defence ministry spokesman was unable to immediately confirm or deny the Yediot report.

The right-wing government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu which came to power in June announced in August that it was lifting a four-year-old freeze on new construction in West Bank and Gaza settlements.

But Mr. Netanyahu said the decision concerned only expansion of existing settlements and not the creation of new communities in the occupied territories.

There are currently around 145 settlements with 140,000 residents in the territories.

Palestinian officials, backed up by European government and the United States, have strongly criticised the decision to increase the Jewish presence in the territories as contrary to the spirit of the Oslo peace accords on Palestinian self-rule.

But the government says that all settlement expansion projects it has authorised so far were already approved by the previous

Labour government before it imposed the 1992 freeze to help facilitate peace negotiations with the Palestinians.

Last week the government announced that it had approved the sale of 3,000 existing settlement apartments built under the Labour government but left empty due to the 1992 freeze.

'Contingency plan to arrest settlers'

The Israeli secret service has a plan for the preventive arrest of Jewish radicals expected to try to torpedo Israel's troop withdrawal from Hebron, the Haaretz newspaper reported Tuesday.

Shin Bet, the government's internal security police, has drawn up a list of extremists, notably from the Jewish settlements in and around Hebron, to be detained prior to the eventual transfer of power in the city to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), the newspaper said.

The head of Shin Bet, Ami Ayalon, has publicly expressed his concern over the likelihood of violence by Jewish and Palestinian extremists opposed to the peace accords which have led to limited Palestinian autonomy in the territories.

Citing intelligence gathered by Shin Bet, Haaretz says a number of Jewish radicals are planning to move into Hebron and carry out demonstrations and attacks on Palestinian neighbourhoods in hopes of prompting a Palestinian backlash that would lead to cancellation of Israel's withdrawal.

Rabbi Moshe Levinger, one of the spiritual leaders of the hardline settlers, declared on Monday that he would not hesitate to shoot Palestinians "if it becomes necessary" to prevent a massacre of Jews.

But he denied that settlers were plotting to sabotage the redeployment, calling such allegations "blood libel."

2 women rescued from ruins of collapsed Cairo building

CAIRO (Agencies) — Two women — an American and an Egyptian — were found alive on Tuesday in the ruins of a 12-storey apartment building which collapsed here Sunday.

"I'm very tired," said Samantha Miksche, an 17-year-old American, who suffered only cuts and bruises from her ordeal.

The other woman, an Egyptian, was taken to a hospital, but the extent of her injuries were not immediately known.

As a grim search for survivors entered its third day, dozens were still missing. Workers pulled two more bodies from the ruins Tuesday, raising the reported death toll to 18. The Interior Ministry, responsible for internal security, confirmed 12 deaths.

At least 23 people have been pulled out alive since Sunday, but until the two women were rescued at about the same time, 21 hours had gone by without anyone being found alive, police said. As many as 150 people were in the building, officials said.

At daybreak, the government sent dozens of soldiers to cordon off the site in the middle-class Cairo neighbourhood.

Rescue workers complained that thousands of people were milling about the site, which was littered with parts of bathtubs, bathroom tiles, mattresses, even pages of university lecture notes.

Workers pulled out Miksche and the other woman, identified by the hospital as Noha Fawzi, soon after dawn.

Ms. Miksche, from Los Angeles, was on the building's second floor when it collapsed, said Noha Wagih, a friend at the hospital.

During the 36 hours beneath the ruins, she could hear the cries for help of other survivors, Ms. Wagih said. Sniffing dogs located her, alerting workers who followed her screams, Ms. Wagih said.

"She is perfectly fine," Ms. Wagih told the Associated Press. "I am amazed how she came out in high spirits."

But her mother, an American of Egyptian origin, was still missing. The building's owner, Raouf Wissa Ibrahim, is being held in preventative custody

for four days charged with "extreme negligence and non-premeditated murder."

Two engineers who were supervising renovation of a bank on the ground floor, Ahmad Mahmoud Ryad and Ashraf Al Bukhari, were also taken into preventative custody on the same charges as Mr. Ibrahim, judicial sources said.

The Egyptian government appealed for more help Tuesday, and Japanese rescue workers were expected to arrive on Wednesday. Building construction is notoriously shoddy in Cairo.

The municipality has recorded 690,000 violations of building permits in recent years, said Major General Mustafa Kamel, the deputy governor of Cairo. Builders often add floors beyond the number allowed on their permits and contractors cheat on materials.

Among the dead was a Jordanian, who had been visiting an X-ray clinic in the building, and a Palestinian man who lived in one of the apartments.

Relatives of two Saudi Arabian officials were missing and still feared under the rubble. The majority of residents in the building were believed to be Egyptian.



Thatcher knows how to make an entrance

SPARTANBURG. South Carolina (AP) — Margaret Thatcher knows how to make an entrance. The former British prime minister surprised organisers of a charity event last week by requesting "America the Beautiful" for her arrival, not "God save the Queen." The Easley High School band easily complied. Thatcher, 71, spoke with donors to the Spartanburg regional Medical Centre Foundation and then went to a private home for tea. The first female prime minister, dubbed the "iron lady," served from 1979 to 1990.

Britain's 'Road To Hell' marks 10th birthday

LONDON (R) — The M25, the orbital motorway around London often called the world's largest car park because of chronic traffic jams, is 10 years old Tuesday. Immortalised in the pop song "Road To Hell," the 185-kilometres M25 is the longest city bypass in the world and is Europe's busiest road, used by about 700,000 cars during the morning rush hour. From the day it was opened in 1986 by then — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, the £1 billion (\$1.6 billion) ring road has been criticised. The environmental group Friends of the Earth calls the M25 a "complete failure" because it encouraged people to abandon public transport in favour of the motor car.

Kennedy Xmas card, cheque sold for \$80,000

MINNEAPOLIS (R) — A cheque that John F. Kennedy sent to baseball great Mickey Mantle to pay off a bet and a Christmas card the late president signed just before his death were sold for \$80,000, a memorabilia firm said. Asset Marketing Services Inc. said the two items were sold to a collector in New York who was not named. Kennedy sent a \$100 check to Mantle after losing a well-publicised round of golf to the late slugger in 1962. Mantle returned the check to the White House uncashed. The Christmas card was to have been the White House Christmas card of 1963. Kennedy had signed some of the cards just before his assassination in November of that year. Both items were acquired from the estate of Evelyn Lincoln, Kennedy's personal secretary, who had destroyed the rest of the Christmas cards. The check was sold for \$35,000 while the card was bought for \$45,000, it said.

Man held in 'trick pencil' graduate test scheme

NEW YORK (R) — A California man has been arrested for allegedly running a three-year scheme that let people cheat on required graduate school admission exams by using pencils encoded with the answers, federal prosecutors said. George Kobayashi, 45, of Arcadia, was arrested on two fraud charges filed in Manhattan Federal Court alleging he operated his test-cheating scheme from November 1993 until the present. If convicted of the two charges, Mr. Kobayashi faces a possible maximum prison term of 10 years and fines of \$500,000. The complaint says Mr. Kobayashi's American Test Centre Company advertised a "unique" method of preparing students for the tests for a \$6,000 fee. Applicants were given coded answers on pencils that test-takers took into the exam with them, prosecutors said.

For Information Only

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ANZ Grindlays

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Arab Banking Corporation (Jordan)

Jordan Investment and Finance Bank

Jordan Export and Finance Bank



Agent

Arab Bank PLC

October, 1996

مكننا حنة لاصل